

THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-LETTER

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Leung's death 2nd suicide since June



COURTESY OF GRACE PANG
Ching Kin Leung.

BY JESSICA VALDEZ
THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-LETTER

Johns Hopkins University senior Ching Kin Leung died Dec. 29 when he jumped out of the window of his sixth floor apartment in The Marylander Apartments, according to Baltimore City Police. He was 24.

Leung's death marks the second

time an undergraduate has committed suicide in less than a year. Rising junior Lauren R. Thompson died last June after falling from the roof of the Northway Apartments, and her death was determined a suicide by the state medical examiner's office.

Baltimore City Police received a call from Leung's sister at 2:40 a.m. Dec. 29 requesting they check on his well-being, said police spokesperson Troy Harris. When officers arrived, they were unable to gain access to Leung's apartment and proceeded to the backyard of the building, where they found him lying face down in a garden area.

Leung jumped from his apartment at 2:42 a.m. and was pronounced dead at 4:05 a.m., police said. His sister said that she had not spoken with him since three days before the incident.

Police found a suicide note from Leung that discussed a recent breakup with his girlfriend and failed

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Boswell confident in support services

BY JULIANNA FINELLI
THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-LETTER

Despite their concern regarding two recent student suicides that occurred within approximately six months of each other, both Dean of Student Life Susan Boswell and Director of the Counseling Center Michael Mond are confident that the University's counseling services provide quality care for students with mental health issues.

Both the deaths of Ching Kin Lueng in December 2002 and Lauren R. Thompson in June 2002 were deemed suicides by the state medical examiner's office. Boswell stated that despite their proximity, the two events were dissimilar and completely unrelated.

"Any suicide is alarming and terribly sad," said Boswell, "[but] I don't see that these two situations are related in any way. The circumstances involved were dramatically different."

While Boswell was unable to elaborate on the specifics of these circumstances, she did state that "when a person is desperate enough to take his own life, there are a variety of factors."

Mond agreed with Boswell, stating that while there was "no evidence

one way or the other" in regard to whether the seemingly high rate is significant or merely coincidental, he did not feel that it signifies an "epidemic."

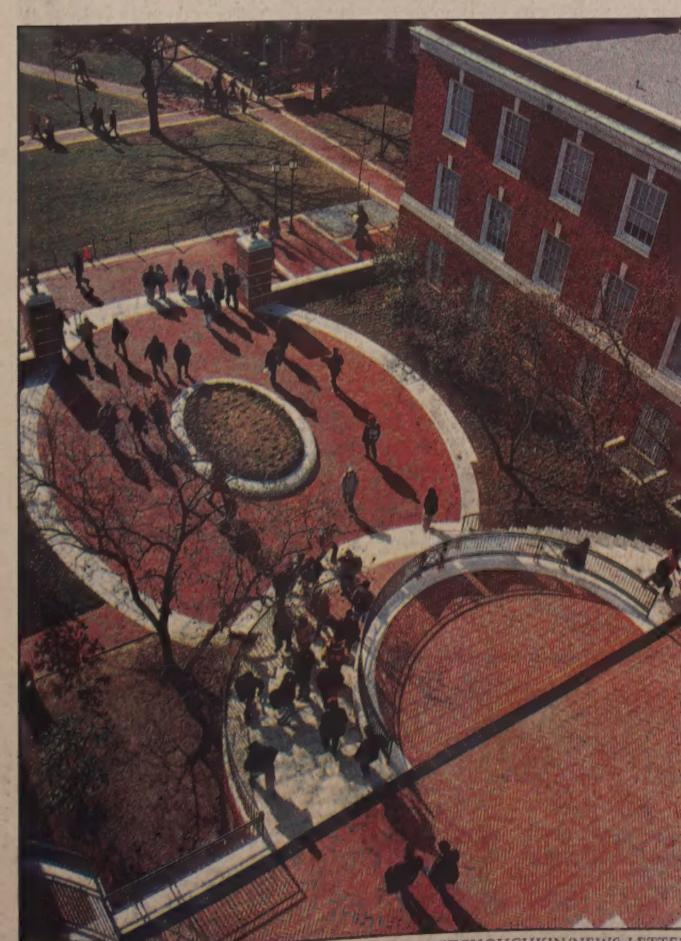
"Every single death diminishes us," said Mond. "But there is nothing I can observe [that is] unique to Hopkins. In the big picture, [the number of student suicides] works out to the number you would statistically expect."

According to the National Center for Health Statistics, the 2000 national average for suicides in any age group was 10.6 per 100,000 people. A report by *The Boston Globe* in February 2001, which ranked the suicide rates since 1990 at 12 universities with strong science and engineering programs, recorded Hopkins' rate at 6.9 per 100,000, the third highest rate out of the 12 schools sampled. The Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) ranked first with a rate of 10.2, and Harvard ranked second with a rate of 7.4. *The Boston Globe* estimated the average suicide rate for all colleges to be about 7 per 100,000; most of the colleges sampled in the study fell below that rate.

Debate still exists as to whether

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Admin explores schedule change



VADIM GRETCHOUCHKIN/NEWS-LETTER
With classes clustered early in the week, student traffic on-campus dwindles as the week progresses.

Neither rain, nor snow, nor gloom of night ...



RAPHAEL SCHWEBER-KOREN/NEWS-LETTER
Students plod through the lantern-lit snow that blanketed Homewood campus on the evening of Jan. 6. Top 10 reasons to love winter, page B4.

Hopkins tuition increases by 4.9 percent

BY DIANA ISKELOV
THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-LETTER

For full-time undergraduates at The Johns Hopkins University's Homewood campus, this fall will bring a 4.9 percent tuition increase.

Applying to the over 4,000 undergraduates in the Krieger School of Arts and Sciences and the Whiting School of Engineering, the 4.9 percent increase will raise the tuition rate to \$28,730 for 2003-2004, an increase of \$1,340. This year's tuition rate of \$27,390 represented an increase of 5.1 percent from the year before.

According to Jerome Schnydrman, secretary of the Johns Hopkins University Board of Trustees, "The Board felt that in these particular difficult times, it was important to keep the tuition increases at around five percent."

Schnydrman also noted that as the costs of higher education in the United States continue to rise, the price that students pay in tuition is no longer adequate to finance the operations of the University. At Hopkins, tuition is used to finance not only the

costs of instruction, but also support services, the basic health service, sports and recreation programs and various student activities.

Steven Knapp, provost and senior vice president for academic affairs, noted, "Education is an extremely labor-intensive activity, and that is one critical reason why the cost of providing a university education tends to rise faster than the overall rate of inflation. It is important to realize that, even with these increases, tuition does not cover the full cost of instruction and has to be supplemented by revenue from other sources, such as endowment and alumni contributions."

The increase represents the continuing efforts of the University to reign in the tuition hikes of previous years. During the 2000-2001 school year, tuition rose 5.4 percent over the previous year's figure.

For the past seven years, tuition increases for full-time undergraduates in the two schools have been kept below 5 percent. Increases above that figure came only when charges to operate two new student life centers, the Martin Center for the Arts and the O'Connor Recreation Center, were

factored into the tuition rate structure. For 22 straight years prior to these past seven, tuition increases had exceeded 5 percent, with 10 percent or higher increases occurring seven times within that frame.

Daniel Weiss, dean of the Krieger

CONTINUED ON PAGE A4

Tuition increases from 2000 to 2003

2000-2001: \$26,060	5.4 percent increase
2002-2003: \$27,390	5.1 percent increase
2003-2004: \$28,730	4.9 percent increase

Data for 2001-2002 school year not available.

GRAPHIC BY LIZ STEINBERG/NEWS-LETTER

HOP secures Rollins for Feb. 9

BY LINDSAY SAXE
THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-LETTER

The sometimes actor, writer and former member of the '80s punk-rock band Black Flag, Henry Rollins will be bringing his "Spoken Word" tour to Homewood campus on Feb. 9.

Sponsored in part by the Johns Hopkins Organization for Programming (HOP), Rollins' show is one of the many additions to this year's big-ticket show schedule, which is seeing a growth in events due in part to HOP's 2002 budget increase.

"We didn't actually pursue him," said HOP's senior executive chair, Joseph Hanauer, "we were approached by a production company in Baltimore that represents Rollins, and were pro-

vided with the opportunity."

Now, Rollins dabbles in a bit of everything, characterizing himself as having "a minimum wage frame of mind," meaning he is willing to try just about anything that is new and that someone's willing to pay him for.

Ticket prices, however, will not be the usual super-discounted numbers students are used to, according to Hanauer.

"We're giving discounted tickets, but not at prices students [normally] expect," said Hanauer.

Although Rollins' performance did not cost HOP very much, the show's ticket prices have been set by Rollins' production company. HOP is, however, offering a reduced student charge of \$15, while tickets will

be sold to the public at \$25 a piece.

Hanauer also alluded to one more major act HOP may be bringing to Homewood, but the details are not set in stone yet. According to Hanauer, HOP has been able to do a lot more for programming this year, as a result of their budget that started out at a little over \$50,000. HOP is working with the Spring Fair Committee to bring another big name to campus this year. So far, Homewood has seen the likes of Eminem, Shaggy and, more recently, The Roots and Ben Folds.

HOP is currently on a mission to revitalize E-level and, as Hanauer put it, "make it a good time again." They plan on pushing for more local Baltimore performers to come to the ill-frequented Levering Union hangout.

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BASKETBALL KEEPS BUSY

While you were sitting at home drinking hot chocolate and watching your parents' cable TV, our basketball teams were kicking butt and taking names. Page A12



BRODY SPEAKS!

...as do the other professors who taught classes over Intersession. We review all the groovy trips, interesting classes and other such business. Page B1



YOU BEST BELIEVE

What are all those bumper stickers on cop cars and city buses all about, anyway? Apparently, it has to do with the drug war and our inability to win it. Page B3

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Counseling Center addresses suicide

BY LINDSAY SAXE
THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-Letter

Last year, one out of every five students—161 of the 801 Hopkins students and faculty who went to the University Counseling Center for treatment—reported having some suicidal thoughts. One of the first steps towards preventing the manifestation of these thoughts, according to Dr. Michael Mond of the University Counseling Center, is recognizing the symptoms in yourself, a friend or a family member and getting involved in the recovery process.

Mond, who has been working with the Hopkins community for over years, believes Continued on Page A11 that “being aware of the symptoms and being educated properly on how to deal with [suicidal situations]” is the key to suicide prevention.

Thus, the ability to notice distress signals such as emotional problems, unusual social behavior and “suicidal ideation” is imperative for students and family, as well as University staff.

These symptoms, which Mond said are most often observed by “people who know [the suicidal person] the best,” may reveal themselves in people who have a long history of depression yet they also occur in formerly stable people who are reacting to trauma, loss or an extreme change in their life.

And while most suicidal people also exhibit signs of severe depression, not all those who are depressed are necessarily going to commit suicide—they are, however, more at risk, according to The American Suicide Foundation.

All the more reason, Mond contends, “you should always consult with someone if you are worried...we’d rather take it [suicidal symptoms] seriously and react.”

This is part of the reasoning behind the Center’s Suicide Tracking System (STS), which attempts to recognize those students or faculty members who demonstrate slight to severe signs of suicidal tendencies. The tracking system was set up in an effort to keep potentially suicidal students

from going unnoticed or untreated. In the Fall of 1996, the Center set up the tracking system in order to keep close tabs and continually monitor its suicidal clients. Last year, there were 45 such students and Hopkins affiliates who were placed in the tracking system (six percent of the 161 people with suicidal thoughts), a process that includes weekly sessions that facilitate assessment and assure continual contact with the Center’s professionals.

Of those 45 clients, one was referred to outside medical treatment and none were hospitalized and none committed suicide. There were also 22 percent who dropped out of treatment, yet continued to be monitored, and 24 percent who are still being tracked.

“I’ve seen students whose sense of self and vision for the future is destroyed by a bad exam or an unwanted break-up,” said Mond, “and my sense is that since Sept. 11, it is easier for people to get distressed.”

It is important, Mond stressed, that students know that the Center’s services are free of charge, confidential, non-judgmental and most importantly of all, they do not include calling students’ parents or professors. That is, however, unless the student seems to be at a high risk of hurting himself or others.

Sept. 11, along with a vast array of stresses both at school and at home, are factors cited by Mond that may influence someone’s thoughts of suicide.

Mond was quick to point out, however, that dialogue and open discussion with someone who may be suicidal is not going to “put an idea in their head.” Most people who are suicidal will readily talk about their thoughts or maybe even a plan of action, if they have gone so far.

Planning ahead, arranging one’s personal affairs and even giving away valuable personal belongings are all quite often demonstrated by suicidal people.

While some students may not want to alienate a friend who seems to be at risk of committing suicide, a study done by the Center on their 2001-2002 clientele shows that a majority

of those people who came to the Center with suicidal tendencies were referred there by a friend.

Statistics show that of the 40 clients last year who indicated they had moderate to severe suicidal thoughts, feelings and behaviors, 22 percent were referred by a friend, while 45 percent referred themselves.

“As you can see,” Mond said, “friends can play a vital role.”

Most of the people who are, however, recent victims of depression are in a category Mond termed as acute. There is more chance, as he said, that

through dialogue with a counselor, those victims of acute depression could learn how to cope with the traumatic situations in their lives. For those who are more severe, medication in combination with therapy is another option.

Yet some people who have problems with depression or suicidal thoughts, “don’t like to admit to their problems because it may mean [to them] that they are a failure,” Mond said. “But just knowing that there is someone who’s going to be there to help reduces their anxiety.”

JHU sees increase in early applicants

BY CLAIRE KOEHLER
THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-Letter

Johns Hopkins accepted 347 out of 615 early decision applicants this year for the 2003-2004 academic year, which will make up one third of next year’s freshman class.

Early Decision applications were up 20 percent over last year’s numbers for a class that the university plans to limit to 1050. In 2001, only

464 students applied Early Decision and 244, or 53 percent, of those students were accepted.

Director of Undergraduate Admissions John Latting believes the applicant pool was substantially higher this year for two reasons.

“First, the admissions staff has done a good job of promoting Hopkins and all it has to offer, which has resulted in more students really wanting to come here,” said Latting. “Second, Hopkins has benefited from the Early Decision trend seen at its peer institutions.”

The high admit rate is due to the fact that Early Decision applicants rate Hopkins as their first choice, said Latting, and that this enthusiasm to attend Hopkins helped increase their probability of acceptance.

“The fact that these students want to be here at Hopkins makes it easier for us to make our decision,” said Latting. “More so than ever, high-school seniors are seeing Hopkins as an investment in their future.”

Dean of Student Life Susan Boswell agreed.

“Students who apply early decision tend to be very certain about their choice and very happy about their acceptance,” she said. “Therefore, they come in very excited about being here.”

Although many think those who are slightly below regular applicant pool standards get in by applying early, the quality of Early Decision admits at Hopkins is very nearly equal to regular decision admits, according to Latting.

“The typical Hopkins admit gets three A’s for every B; once they are here it doesn’t matter if they were accepted early or not,” he said.

In the matter of financial aid, very few Hopkins early decision applicants are rejected because of insufficient aid packages, according to Director of Student Financial Services Ellen Frishberg.

“These are people who really want to be here, and there is no reason to disadvantage a student who is applying early decision,” she said. “The only reason a student wouldn’t apply early, from a financial aid perspective, would be that she or he wants to compare merit money.”

Leung remembered by friends

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1
courses at Hopkins, as well as another note indicating that items in the apartment should be left to his sister.

At the time of his death, Leung had only recently returned from a visit with his sister in New York, said Dean of Student Life Susan Boswell. His sister is currently in Hong Kong and was unavailable for comment.

The Hong Kong Student Association (HKSA) held a memorial service Monday night in the Interfaith Center to remember Leung, who was known by his friends as Andy. Close friends and representatives of the University were in attendance.

The service was organized by the HKSA, in which Leung had been a long-time member and former vice president.

University Chaplain Sharon Kugler, who helped plan the memorial service, said that it was “a time of sharing stories about Andy.”

“I find it to be completely heartbreaking to witness this with people’s loved ones and friends,” said Kugler. “We can be there for people and to walk people through challenging times. It’s okay to ask for help.”

Junior Grace Pang remembered Leung as a good friend who was always willing to help others.

“He was a very friendly person,” she said. “He placed his friends before himself.”



COURTESY OF GRACE PANG

The late Ching Kin Leung, "Andy," pictured here with Stephanie Lau and Grace Pang, enjoyed cooking for his friends.

He also loved to cook, she added.

“He was a very good cook, mainly Chinese food, and he would invite friends over,” Pang said.

Leung transferred to Hopkins three years ago, according to Boswell, and was majoring in computer science.

“I think he wanted to be a teacher of computer science,” said Pang.

Boswell said that students over-

whelmed with stress or depression should take advantage of the counseling resources on campus.

Kugler also urged anyone who needs emotional support after Leung’s death to come to her to talk.

“There are resources around to help [students who are feeling stressed],” said Kugler. “When a person takes their life, we are all left with questions.”

Student use of mental health services high

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The Boston Globe results might be skewed, since many comparable colleges, including the University of Pennsylvania, Princeton, Stanford, Columbia, Carnegie Mellon and Yale, did not provide data for the study.

Boswell reported that there have been five suicides at Hopkins since 1990, four of which were undergraduates and one of which was a graduate student. Of the five suicides, four occurred in Baltimore.

Regarding the two recent suicides at Hopkins, Mond feels there is “no need to jump to conclusions.”

“Is this [occurrence] a blip...or is something going on? We don’t know for sure,” said Mond. “I think it’s always good to pay attention...to try and understand [the problem of suicide] more and more. But I don’t see the need to assume anything unusual is going on... Sometimes things happen in close proximity.”

According to Boswell, the two incidents have not prompted any specific plans to change the current counseling system at Hopkins.

“The University always looks at

ways of improving services to students,” said Boswell. “I believe that the current model is particularly appropriate for a student population and... a great number of students take advantage of the services that are offered.”

Mond agreed that student usage of Counseling Center services is high. According to the 2001-2002 Annual Report and Data Summary, which was released by the Counseling Center in June 2002, a total of 801 clients were seen in personal counseling during the past year.

Another statistic in the report shows that 38 percent of all undergraduates at Hopkins will visit the Counseling Center before they graduate.

According to Mond, these numbers are greater than at “comparable universities.” Mond considers this high student response “a good thing.”

“It means [Hopkins students] are more sophisticated...and more aware,” said Mond.

Of the total 801 clients seen by the Counseling Center from June 2001 to June 2002, 161 clients “reported some

suicidal thought at intake;” in other words, 20 percent of all clients seen at the Counseling Center indicated some sort of suicidal thought at their first visit. Eight percent of those 161 clients “reported moderate, serious, or severe suicidal thoughts.”

Since 1996, the Counseling Center has used a suicide-tracking program to monitor students at risk for suicide.

Developed as part of a research project with David Jobes, a suicidologist at Catholic University, the Suicide Tracking System uses a special assessment protocol to determine at-risk clients, and then closely monitors and reviews those clients until they meet the criteria indicating the risk for suicide has passed.

Jobes serves as a consultant for the Counseling Center, and the Center helps provide him with data for ongoing analysis of treatment outcomes.

Mond feels that Hopkins is a pioneer in the use of such a program, since other universities are now adopting similar systems. According to Mond, clients are aware when they are placed in the Suicide Tracking System, and have been generally receptive to it.

“I think [the clients] are glad we’re paying attention,” said Mond.

The Counseling Center also provides a “24/7 on-call system” for emergencies, according to Mond. At any given time, one of the Center’s psychologists carries a pager; if an emergency occurs after hours, students can call Hopkins Security at extension 7777 and be patched through to the on-call psychologist.

Students who call the security office to use this service are never required to give their names. According to the Center’s data, 65 out of the year’s 801 clients were served after hours.

Due to confidentiality laws, the Counseling Center was unable to disclose whether or not Lueng or Thompson had ever been in contact with the University’s counseling services. Mond does believe, however, that the services offered have benefited a large number of students.

“I would say we’ve helped a lot of people,” said Mond.

Mond feels it remains to be seen whether the recent increase in Hopkins’ student suicide rate indicates a significant trend. He does speculate, however, that all college campuses might be experiencing “an added layer of anxiety and stress” following the events of September 11.

Seniors search for graduation speaker

BY JENNA O’STEEN
THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-Letter

Beginning in July of 2002, the senior class officers and the Johns Hopkins President’s Office combined efforts to secure this year’s graduation speaker. Commencement is quickly approaching, scheduled for Thursday, May 22, and the search for this year’s speaker is still on.

Ravi Kavasery, president of the Class of 2003, said that “the process [they] are using is no different from past years,” and that they have experienced no unusual difficulties that past years haven’t dealt with.

Hopkins hopes to attract a speaker that is well-known and also has a personal tie with Homewood and the Hopkins students. Kavasery said that the officers know the “importance of this ceremony for both its graduates and their families” and are hoping to find a speaker to please all.

In July 2002, a committee formed from the President’s Office and the senior class officers began to compile a list of candidates who senior students felt would be good speakers and who the Hopkins students, faculty and Board of Trustees had contacts with.

The senior officers proceeded to rank this list in the order of their preference as well as by how difficult it would be to secure their attendance.

At this time, all possible candidates received letters from both President William R. Brody and Kavasery, explaining that Hopkins was looking for interested speakers. The Board of Trustees also began to call prospective speakers personally.

In the October 31, 2002 issue of the *News-Letter*, we incorrectly attributed quotes about Family Weekend events to Edward I. Meyers. The *News-Letter* regrets these errors.

ERRATA

Kaplan ranks test locations

BY SHRUTI MATHUR
THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-Letter

The Kaplan Test Prep Services released a nationwide study last week that attempted to rank LSAT and MCAT test locations based on factors such as testing environment, proctoring, space and temperature.

"Kaplan has been preparing students for over 65 years," said Executive Director of Kaplan Justin Serrano, "and this project is the culmination of requests we've had from students coming to us with inquiries on where to take their tests. Our intention is to provide a service for test-sites to be more formally evaluated."

A total of 261 LSAT and 192 MCAT sites were evaluated for the August 2002 MCAT and the October 2002 LSAT dates. The electronic survey, which was sent out to over 2,140 MCAT and 5,000 LSAT Kaplan students the day of their test, asked students to rate the proctors, comfort level, overall experience and desk space provided at their test location.

The responses were tabulated and an overall score was calculated for each site by test administration date. A minimum of four student responses per test site were required to receive a ranking. Sites that failed to receive this quota were still included with comments and were designated as "low votes."

"Most of the test sites are adequate, but there are always extremes ... our long-term goal is to get rid of those outliers," said Serrano.

Serrano gave a few examples of negative feedback received, including complaints of proctors issuing 5 minute warnings when there were in fact 15 minutes left, of room temperatures so extreme that students were sweating enough to smudge their answer sheets and of students having to balance their booklet and test materials on their knees because the desk space was so small.

Three out of seven sites offered in Maryland were evaluated for the August MCAT and six out of nine for the October LSAT with varying results. While the University of Maryland at Rockville ranked 33rd out of 192 sites and was described as "lovely" and "recommendable to others even if not the closest location," the University of Maryland at College Park was rated

allow 176 with complaints about room temperatures and proctoring.

"There is no systematic way to look at sites," said Serrano. "At least in Maryland you have options, and now students have a resource they can turn to in order to make the most informed decision."

While Mary Savage, Hopkins' pre-professional chief program coordinator and pre-law Advisor Chair, agreed that a good test environment is important, she feels that the survey is entirely missing the point.

"I am frankly confused as to why Kaplan wants to evaluate sites," said Savage. "It seems mediocre to me — my thinking is, at least there is a site."

Savage says it is hard to be selective when there are not many choices, stating that the biggest concern at the moment is the scarcity of test locations. For example, there were reportedly no June LSAT test sites in Maryland, and students would have had to travel all the way to Pennsylvania had a Hopkins site not have been set up as a service.

"I have had students who have had to take cabs into D.C. just because there was nothing available in the area," said Savage. "Kaplan should be evaluating the needs of test takers instead of the site. I would rather see students preparing for the test than wasting time worrying about external factors that are pretty much uncontrollable," she said.

Edward Haggerty Jr., a media relations specialist at the Law School Admissions Council Headquarters in Newtown Pennsylvania agrees, pointing out that the study deals with only one exam date and targets pretty isolated issues, which when publicized can create a sort of "mistaken impression" on test-takers.

"There will always be occasional disruptions — it's impossible to control every single variable," said Haggerty.

Haggerty claimed that there is no significant dissatisfaction with the LSAT, as statistics show that less than one-half of one percent of test takers complain about LSAT test center conditions.

In a formal statement, the LSAC questioned the validity of the "2002 Test Site Rater" study conducted by Kaplan, Inc. stating, "the study, which Kaplan characterizes as 'comprehensive'

sive,' only rates testing conditions at the October 2002 administration of the LSAT. Since the overwhelming majority of test center problems happen only once, the value of such ratings for future test takers is dubious."

While the two reviews received by Kaplan for Hopkins' October LSAT test site stated issues like "the center was too dark", "the flip over desks were too small" and "the physical constraints were a little disappointing," Savage argued that "the best way to evaluate the relationship between location and performance would be to have a controlled Hopkins test site ... we are still at the experimenting stage for having the LSAT administered in Bloomberg, Remsen and Mudd."

Savage says that Hodson is the next target, but financial constraints such as custodial fees and security issues must first be resolved.

There is no official MCAT site on campus, and therefore Hopkins students have been going to the Inn at the Colonnade across the street on University West Parkway. This test site was not included in any part of the Kaplan study.

Senior Raymond Chai, president and founder of the JHU Red Cross Corps, took the test there in August and felt that "the Colonnade was an ideal test center — relatively quiet, large tables, good proctors. Most people were spread out in conference rooms of about 50-100 people."

When asked if he felt an on-campus MCAT site was needed, Chai replied, "I personally don't think that's necessary because the Colonnade is so close anyway, had these long rows of tables I doubt would be available at Homewood".

Senior and fellow biology major Jason Hallick agreed.

"I had a very positive experience at the Colonnade in August of 2002," said Hallick. "My peers had no rude habits and the room was also kept comfortably... I think that these characteristics gave a testing environment that was conducive to high scores."

Junior Namee Kim, a chemistry major, felt that the lighting was very dim, claiming that it gave her blurry vision.

"I know I probably had a legitimate complaint," said Kim, "but I didn't want to deal with all the hassles."

Matthews characterizes Bush's push for war as un-American

BY BRENDAN COSTIGAN
THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-Letter

Television commentator, columnist and author Chris Matthews discussed "Crossing Borders: Looking Outward to a Connected World" at the final event of the 2002 Milton S. Eisenhower Symposium in December.

He detailed the characteristics of American society and thought that are important to making the United States unique among other nations.

One such "national treasure" was the freedom in America for people to achieve their goals and determine their own destinies.

"In America, you are who you become and who you choose to become," said Matthews.

Another trait that Matthews described as "beautifully American" was a sense of rebelliousness. As proof, he cited current feelings of distrust of American business and government in the wake of both recent financial scandals and the terrorist attacks of September 11.

"It's the great American irony," observed Matthews. "We're patriotic as hell, but we don't believe in our government."

Matthews further discussed what he saw as the American desire to avoid war, a sentiment that he said is being betrayed by the Bush administration's foreign and military policy toward Iraq. Matthews commended the United States for being both a "reluctant warrior" and a "rattlesnake" that retaliates only when threatened. He went on to criticize the current administration's aggressive posture toward its former Persian Gulf enemy.

"I think right now we're in this period of hubris and almost weirdness that I find vastly unfamiliar to the America I described," he said.

Matthews continued arguing that current Iraq policy is inconsistent with the American character he discussed in his speech.

"I don't find it anywhere in our history," claimed Matthews. "The right [wing] is operating in an un-American fashion."

Matthews was also critical of how the administration's approach on Iraq

would effect the ongoing war on terrorism. He alluded to claims that attacking Iraq will only encourage terrorist attacks on the part of other pro-Arab groups like al Qaeda.

"If you know you're going to create more terrorism, why would you do it?" he asked.

Many of Matthews' points in his speech echoed those made in his newly published and best-selling book, *American: Beyond Our Grandest Notions*.

During the question and answer period that followed his speech, Matthews displayed the assertive and at times, combative personality he is known for on his political issues tele-

vision show, *Hardball with Chris Matthews*. He engaged directly with each audience member who had a question to ask or an opinion to give, at times agreeing with or challenging each position taken.

According to 2002 MSE co-chair Meera Popat, Matthews' understanding of politics and world events made him the ideal person to speak on the subject of America's role in the world.

"Matthews was a good person for the topic because his show *Hardball* discusses political issues including American foreign policy and the role of America in the international system," said Popat.

N-L discusses "War on Terror" with Matthews

A News-Letter reporter asked Chris Matthews about his opinions regarding President George W. Bush's policies and the War on Terror.

News-Letter: In your speech on virtues that are American, you mentioned one characteristic as the skepticism with authority. Do you think America is a rebellious nation right now?

Chris Matthews: Well, I worry sometimes that we're losing our natural skepticism toward politicians. I see the president being very successful in changing public opinion according to his policies for his purposes. For example, earlier this year people would say that they feel that catching bin Laden was essential to any standard of victory against al Qaeda. Now, the president has gone from saying he wants him dead or alive to saying that he's irrelevant. And the public is saying the same thing. Why isn't the public standing by an earlier judgment of their own, buying into a president's latest version of his ambition? That's a serious question.

N-L: You mentioned the war on terrorism...

CM: I don't even like the word "war on terrorism" because a war on terrorism suggests that it's going to begin in 2001 and end in 2005. I think

it more of an attempt to punish the guilty and destroy the threat. Part of this effort is to reduce the hatred of America that leads people to commit suicide to hurt us. You have to find out what that hatred is based upon and try to reduce that.

That's why I think it's dangerous to call it a war. It's an attempt to reduce terrorism. That's our national goal: to lower and reduce terrorism and I think that to achieve it may involve catching the people who did it and it may involve breaking up the terrorist organization. It may involve reducing or eliminating those policies and behaviors that cause countries to despise us and cause people to despise us.

N-L: You said that American history is setting an ideal and trying to live up to it. Given the way that the United States is currently acting in foreign policy, is it upholding an old ideal or setting a new one?

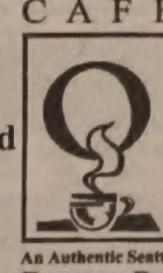
CM: I don't accept it. I don't accept the idea that the United States should engage itself in foreign policy aimed at overturning governments we don't like by force. I don't know what doctrine that is. That's hegemony.



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StuCo changes SAC funding policy



StuCo discusses the planned restructuring of the SAC during the first meeting of the new year on Tuesday, Jan. 28.

BY STEPHANIE HAUSNER

THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-Letter

The first Student Council (StuCo) meeting of the new year included both reflection on the programs held last semester and plans for the new semester, which include a restructuring of the SAC.

StuCo President Manish Gala congratulated StuCo members on their work last semester. He highlighted their accomplishments, citing the movement of Spring Fair back to the freshmen quads, exam recycling, the use of the Internet to inform the student body, specifically through the

Website, safety and lighting improvements around campus and Charles Village and the Upperclassmen housing initiative.

Gala then told members there were still things that needed to be accomplished during this semester. He explained that the meal plan would be changed after this semester and that StuCo should find out what students want and develop a new meal plan.

Treasurer Elise Roecker presented a change in the structure of the StuCo and Student Activities Commission (SAC). Roecker explained that the SAC is running low on funds because of the increase of student groups on

campus; there were 15 new groups added just last semester.

The SAC restructuring would take the money for the StuCo class groups formerly given directly to the SAC and put the money in the StuCo account. Such groups as the Milton S. Eisenhower (MSE) Symposium, Wonderflux, Hopkins Organization for Programming (HOP) and Spring Fair will be placed directly under the StuCo, eliminating the need for such groups to answer to both StuCo and the SAC.

"Under the current plan there is a lot of double-counting," said Gala. "This new proposal will correct that problem."

Roecker added that "the logistics still need to be worked out, but the plan will definitely be positive." She also added that this would be a change in the bylaws and not in the Constitution.

Roecker described a major problem being large groups, such as the MSE symposium, collaborating with small groups to produce programs for which the small groups end up paying. There is in fact an account for collaborations between groups which is not being used to serve its purpose, according to Roecker.

Vice President for Institutional Relations Noel De Santos explained that the new structure will "delineate the lines of accountability" and eliminate "technical redundancies." He stressed that the StuCo encourages collaboration between groups, but that the revisions will more clearly "separate funding sources."

Roecker encouraged StuCo members to look at the SAC Web site at <http://SAC.stuco.org>. She announced that the General Assembly meeting will be held in Schaffer 3 on Monday.

Charles Reyner, the chair of the Homewood Student Affairs (HSA) Committee, announced an upcoming trip in which several students would accompany Dean of Student Life Susan Boswell to Lehigh University to look at their meal plan options.

The Board of Elections (BoE) will be holding elections for the Executive Board on March 4, and these will once again be online elections.

The Hopkins Organization for Programming (HOP) plans to increase its activities this semester, starting with the Henry Rollins show planned for February 9. They will also be setting up a consistent schedule of activities which will occur at E-level, including a possible concert series.

The senior class is also planning on utilizing E-level for senior nights and is also planning a senior week to be held between the end of finals and commencement. These activities would include whitewater rafting, community service, beer-tasting, a Senior formal and a Dorm Night, in which students would be together with their freshmen dorm-mates.

The administration has also approved a beach party to occur in May. Pre-commencement festivities are also planned for the day before graduation, including a family picnic, guest lectures, tours of the Baltimore Museum of Art (BMA), and a parent versus seniors game of volleyball.

Class schedule change discussed

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1
graduate programs, said Paula Burger, vice provost of Academic Affairs and International Programs and chairperson of CUE.

Administrators are divided on the benefits and drawbacks of a potential schedule change.

"I personally proposed that we move to a M-W-F situation, but I can see merit on both sides," said Bader. "This [schedule] is a long tradition; it's been happening for decades. It's pretty much unheard of elsewhere in academia. Why shouldn't we do what everybody else does? This is a hotly debated issue; there are advantages on both sides for both models."

Conley, however, insists on maintaining the current schedule.

"It gave greater flexibility for students to pursue research opportunity, with greater time allowances on Thursdays and Fridays," said Conley. "It allowed faculty to balance their teaching with intense research."

But Susan Boswell, Dean of Student Life, pointed out that the compression of a number of classes into three days precludes students from mentally absorbing the material.

"Part of the thought is that compressing everything in the three days makes it very difficult to do work in between. It doesn't leave time for the students to absorb the material," she said. "I speak from a non-faculty per-

spective; I think a M-W-F schedule is healthier, and gives people an opportunity to collect themselves between classes and go to the next class prepared."

Conley said a shift to a M-W-F sequence will prevent the sparse student population on campus Thursdays and Fridays.

"At Hopkins, since upperclassmen do not live on campus, whatever we can do to bring students on campus Monday through Friday is of value," said Conley. "M-T-W really creates binge learning. They use the weekend for preparation, and then Wednesday comes and they crash."

The new schedule would also lend continuity between schools, according to Conley.

"We're looking for consistency across divisions," said Conley. "The public health school [and Peabody] run on this schedule."

Burger added, "One issue that has been raised by students is the fact that because we're not on consistent schedules, it's difficult for students in one unit to take classes in another unit."

Traditionally, inconsistency between schools has not been a problem since they operated separately.

"But with growing cross-registration, [and more students] wanting the take classes at other institutions," Bader said this has become an issue worth investigating.

Developers plan Charles Village renovations

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1
area stretching from 25th Street to University Parkway.

Hopkins plans involve creating a strong retail presence, namely by relocating the obscured university bookstore from the basement of Gilman Hall onto the corner of 33rd and Charles Streets. This frequented locale would open the boulevard to residents and students alike.

Student housing is expected to propagate in this area as well, creating new apartments for both upperclassmen and the influx of expected freshmen, as well as reducing the weekend exodus into the suburbs for shopping around the retail monolith of Towson.

"It is something we have wanted to provide, especially for upperclassmen, in the last two or three years," said Susan Boswell, dean of Student Life. "There will be more availability, and although it's really too early to put a price-tag on the development, I don't think the cost will be outrageously different from what we have now."

Official consultation begins this month along with the release of a general survey by the Committee on Undergraduate Education (CUE), which has spent the last year studying the undergraduate experience at Hopkins. As they issue their interim report in the upcoming weeks, a survey will be distributed to determine what student-housing interests are amongst undergraduates.

"It ties in very nicely," said Dennis O'Shea, executive director of communications and public affairs. "The university has a long-term goal of making housing available to any undergraduate who wants it. Today we can't offer that, beyond what limited space is available in Ivy and Homewood."

David McDonough, director of Hopkins real estate development, explained that the last several months were spent conducting preliminary research, interviewing some 100 students, faculty and administrators, as well as meeting with focus groups to determine the likes and dislikes of the Hopkins community at large.

The majority called for more student housing, a new home for the bookstore, a post-office, an Allfirst location, added retail and parking accommodations.

Graduate of 2002 Steve Goutman represented student interests in the committee and voiced the need for additional housing beyond the existing facilities of Wolman, McCoy, Ivy and the Bradford.

Long-term plans to demolish Ivy and its subterranean Royal Farms outlet will be among the first signs of development. Nevertheless, the primary delay on construction, namely the hold issued until 2004, is largely kept to honor the remaining leases of residents in this facility. After such terms are respected, however, O'Shea explains, "The project will be an important step towards meeting the undergraduate demand for on-campus housing."

The discussion over the type and format of the new development will

depend largely on the upcoming consultations.

"The survey will help shape the program and inform our decision, but nothing is off the table right now," O'Shea said.

The Charles Village Project, as it is called, was announced Jan. 16 as a movement towards integrating Homewood and its housing sprawl into the surrounding community of Charles Village.

According to O'Shea, "calming traffic and improving safety for pedestrians" is a primary concern of the University.

"The two programs are obviously not the same, but they are definitely complementary in how they will encourage links between communities and institutions, also including the BMA," said O'Shea. "The streetscape should be the optimum design to encourage links back and forth between campus and shopping. A project like this fits in very nicely with our particular plan for Homewood."

Administrators have only just completed the task of selecting a proposal from several community planning firms.

Boswell commented, "The meetings so far have just been very general discussions about the submitted proposals. Nothing really gets to the nitty-gritty, as in the number of beds and how the furniture will be arranged. That is all coming up in the next few weeks."

Community meetings will commence two weeks from now, and O'Shea commented that "although at

this point nothing has been designed, it's certainly fair to say what [the University has] heard from residents is that the design must be in keeping with the character of the community."

Parking has already been secured by the University as part of its holding in this community development venture, and although the Homewood garage has been described as "antiquated and out of date," part of the Master Plan has been to support the parking needs of Charles Village, as well as satisfy the additional demands that retail would attract.

Beginning last spring, Hopkins began surveying a panel of 40 developers in the Baltimore area, narrowing down the selection over the last six months. On Jan. 16, they announced Struever Bros. as the chosen firm out of the top choices.

"A total of eight developers expressed interest, and we had to choose," said O'Shea. "Not to talk about the losing bidders, the Struever brothers have a lot of experience in Baltimore and with Baltimore communities. They put a good team together and we were very impressed."

"We'd like to imagine a Charles Village with professors and students walking around between classes, shopping during the day and enjoying the area," McDonough said. "It is all part of the plan to develop a flourishing and vibrant college town on the Hopkins campus."

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Doctors protest insurance costs

BY JILL BARTON
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. — More than 800 doctors in Florida, and a dozen more in Mississippi, stayed off the job Monday to protest rising malpractice insurance costs.

Organizers of the protest in the Palm Beach County area said the doctors were staying off the job to attend a two-day conference looking at the problem.

Palm Beach hospitals prepared for the absence by adding to their emergency room staff and rescheduling elective surgeries. No immediate problems were reported.

"We want the patients to understand that there's a major crisis and something has to be done soon," said Dr. Stephen Babic, a Delray Beach cardiologist.

Complaints about higher insurance rates, driven in part by big jury awards for malpractice, are being heard from doctors around the country.

About two dozen surgeons walked off the job in West Virginia earlier this month. Doctors in New Jersey are considering a similar protest in February.

A task force appointed by Florida Gov. Jeb Bush recently voted to recommend that jury awards for punitive damages and pain-and-suffering awards in medical malpractice cases be capped at \$250,000.

"The quality of care for Floridians will be diminished if we don't deal with medical malpractice reform. In the long run, that's the issue," Bush said Monday.

Dr. Robert Cline, president of the Florida Medical Association, said that 130 patients received malpractice awards worth more than \$1 million last year.

"So we're jeopardizing care for 16 million people in the state of Florida because of these 130 claims?" Cline said. "We're approaching Third World medicine where people are traveling 100 miles to get specialized care."

Since 1975, rates for professional liability insurance have increased five-fold across the nation. In comparison, rates for doctors in California, where reforms were passed in 1975, rose only 167 percent during the same period, Cline said.

Victims of medical malpractice, however, say the industry cannot put a cap on the value of someone's health or life.

Wayne Portch, 56, said he lost both legs below the knee and parts of four fingers after two doctors failed to diagnose an infection over four days. He and his wife said they are looking for accountability.

Bush prepared to disarm Iraq by force

BY BYRON FOURNER
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Building a case for war against Iraq, President Bush said Tuesday night he has fresh evidence that Saddam Hussein seeks to "dominate, intimidate or attack" with weapons of mass destruction that he could share with terrorist allies. Bush pledged to "fight with the full force and might of the United States military," if necessary, to disarm Iraq.

"A future lived at the mercy of terrible threats is no peace at all," the president said in a State of the Union address that also put forward tax cuts, Medicare changes and other domestic policies geared toward his 2004 re-election drive.

For the first time since the Sept. 11 attacks transformed him into a wartime president, Bush faced the nation amid serious questions about his leadership. Most Americans don't approve of his handling of the economy, polls indicate, and only a bare majority support his policies on Iraq — an area where the president enjoyed support of more than 80 percent a year ago.

The first half of Bush's hour-long address was devoted to domestic policy, a reflection of his desire not to let Iraq overshadow domestic issues dear to Americans. The heart of his package is a \$674 billion plan to revive the economy, mostly with tax cuts, and a \$400 billion, 10-year proposal to overhaul Medicare, sprinkled with initiatives to combat AIDS, produce energy-efficient cars and give religious groups access to federal community service money.

After an address interrupted 77 times by applause, Democrats challenged Bush's efforts both at home and abroad.

"Tonight, the president used all the right rhetoric, but he still has all the wrong policies," said Senate Minority Leader Tom Daschle, D-S.D.

Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., said he would introduce a resolution requiring Bush to present "convincing evidence of an imminent threat" before sending troops to fight Iraq.

"Instead of rushing down the path to war with Iraq, the American people deserve a full debate," Kennedy said.

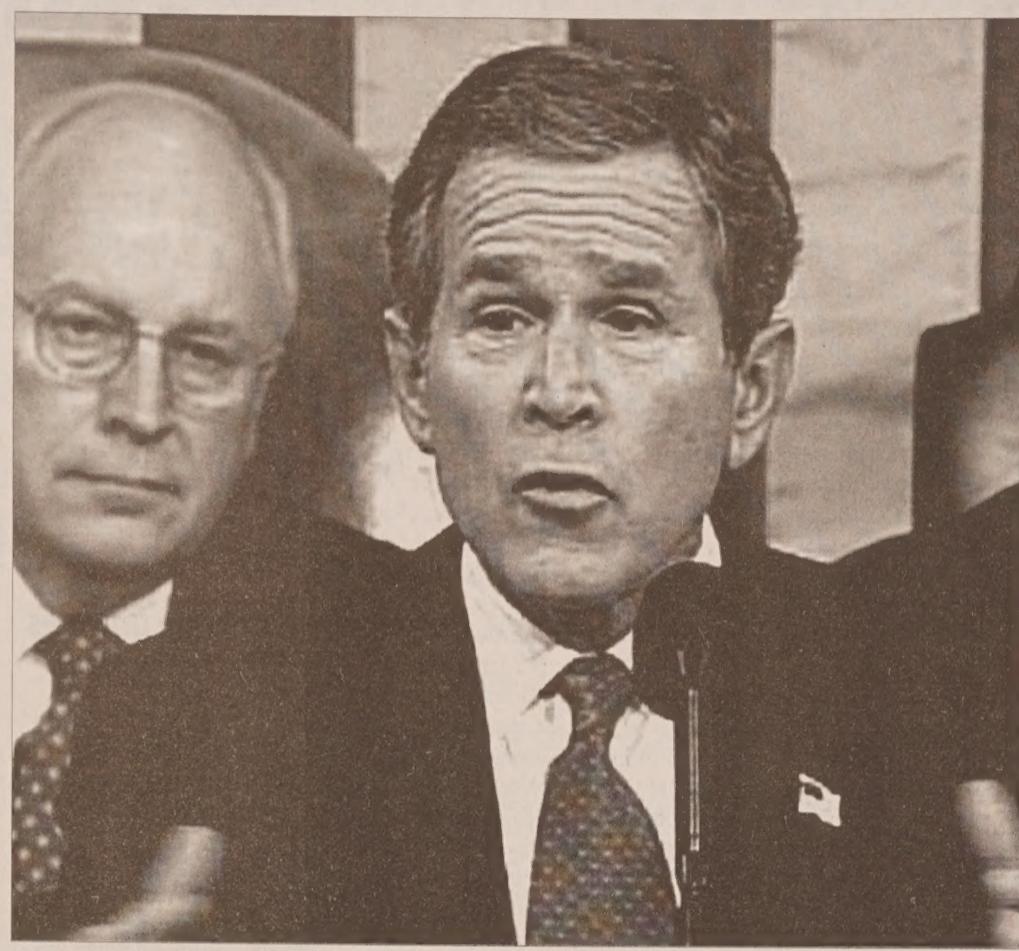
Top GOP congressional leaders sounded eager to get to work on Bush's legislative agenda. "We're about to get this ball rolling," said House Speaker Dennis Hastert of Illinois. "We're ready to go," agreed Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist of Tennessee.

Bush offered no new evidence to support his charges against Iraq, but said Secretary of State Colin Powell will go to the U.N. Security Council next Wednesday to present the U.S. case.

"We will consult, but let there be no misunderstanding: If Saddam Hussein does not fully disarm for the safety of our people, and for the peace of the world, we will lead a coalition to disarm him," the president said.

Key allies, including France and Germany, oppose military action in Iraq and want Bush to give U.N. weapons inspectors more time.

He proposed spending new money for research to develop hy-



In this image from television, President Bush says Saddam Hussein needs to lay out his weapons for the world to see during his State of the Union address to a joint session of Congress, Tuesday, Jan. 28, 2003, in Washington. Seated behind Bush is Vice President Dick Cheney.

Hoping to sway reluctant nations, Bush presented a laundry list of Saddam's alleged offenses, some of them newly revealed to the public. He said intelligence sources have reported that thousands of Iraqi personnel are at work hiding documents and materials from the U.N. weapons inspectors.

Specifically, Bush said Saddam has not accounted for up to 25,000 liters of anthrax, 38,000 liters of botulinum toxin, 500 tons of sarin, mustard gas and VX nerve agent and more than 30,000 munitions capable of delivering chemical weapons.

"If this is not evil, then evil has no meaning," Bush said.

The speech was delivered amid intense security as lawmakers, Cabinet members, military leaders and Supreme Court justices gathered in the House chamber. Several hundred people massed on the Capitol lawn to protest Bush's policies, ranging from a possible war in Iraq to his approach to health care.

The president described the nation as still recovering from recession, terrorist attacks, corporate scandals and stock market declines. "Our economy is recovering, yet it is not growing fast enough or strongly enough," the president said.

He proposed spending new money for research to develop hy-

drogen powered cars and to tutor children of prison inmates. He also called for a new \$600 million drug treatment program in which federal money could go to religious community service programs.

In a nod to his conservative backers, Bush called on Congress to ban a procedure critics call "partial-birth" abortions and human cloning.

While Osama bin Laden and other key terrorists still elude capture, the president said the United States has caught many key commanders of al-Qaida and suggested others had been killed — "met a different fate," in his words.

Citing intelligence sources, secret communications and statements by people now in custody, Bush renewed his assertion that Saddam aids and protects terrorists, including members of al-Qaida.

"Secretly, without fingerprints, he could provide one of his hidden weapons to terrorists or help them develop their own," Bush said.

Bush said Saddam has shown "his utter contempt" for the United Nations and must be brought to account unless he disarms.

"The dictator of Iraq is not disarming. To the contrary, he is deceiving," the president said.

"If war is forced upon us, we will

fight in a just cause and by just means sparing, in every way we can, the innocent. And if war is forced upon us, we will fight with the full force and might of the United States military and we will prevail," he said.

Among his charges:

- The British government has learned that Saddam recently sought significant quantities of uranium from Africa.

- Iraqi officials are hiding documents and materials, and intelligence officers are posing as scientists that inspectors are supposed to interview.

- Three Iraqi defectors say Iraq had several mobile biological weapons labs in the 1990s that are now not accounted for.

"Year after year, Saddam Hussein has gone to elaborate lengths, spent enormous sums, taken great risks, to build and keep weapons of mass destruction — but why? The only possible use he could have for those weapons is to dominate, intimidate or attack," Bush said, warning that Saddam could "resume his ambitions of conquest in the Middle East."

Next week, Powell will allege that not only was Iraq hiding chemical and biological weapons from U.N. inspectors but smuggling in technology for long-range missile and nuclear weapons programs, a senior U.S. official said.

Israelis reelect Sharon

BY DAN PERRY
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

JERUSALEM — Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, who has taken a hard line against the Palestinian uprising, won a crushing victory in Israel's election Tuesday, and partial results showed his Likud and other hawkish parties easily winning most seats in parliament.

The prospect of progress on the Palestinian front now appears to depend on whether Sharon can form a coalition that will include the opposition Labor party, which campaigned on a pledge to restart peace negotiations with the Palestinians.

In his victory speech before jubilant supporters, Sharon called for a "unity government" and warned that "there is no cause for celebration. The battle against the terrorist organizations hasn't ended and it claims more victims every day ... It's a time for soul-searching, for uniting."

Israel TV quoted Sharon as saying he would not establish a right-wing government under any circumstances, although in his speech he did not offer any policy incentive to Labor.

Ariam Mitzna, who led Labor to its worst defeat in history, has ruled out joining a Likud-led government, and he reiterated that stance Tuesday after congratulating Sharon on his victory. "We will remind Sharon every day that there is an alternative, that there is another way," Mitzna said.

Even without Labor, Sharon is expected to face difficulties in forming a stable government from the myriad political and religious factions, especially amid the turmoil of the Palestinian uprising.

Despite unrelenting violence with the Palestinians and a crippling economic crisis, Likud won 37 seats in the 120-member parliament — up from 19 seats in the outgoing Knesset, according to official results from the 96.5 percent of votes that had been counted so far. The bloc of rightist and religious parties that support Sharon's tough stance against the Palestinians won 67 seats overall.

Perhaps the big winner was Yosef "Tommy" Lapid, a journalist-turned-politician who heads the Shinui Party, which has vehemently opposed joining any coalition with religious parties. Shinui emerged as the third largest with 15 seats. The Yugoslav-born Lapid, 71, called on Mitzna and Sharon to join him in a "secular unity government."

Once-dominant Labor, which called for a speedy pullout from most of the West Bank and Gaza, won only 18 seats, compared to 26 in the outgoing parliament, reflecting Israelis' anger at the failure of a decade's peace efforts with the Palestinians which the party led.

COLLEGE BRIEFS

Body believed to be missing student

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

FORT COLLINS, Colo. — Police said Sunday they found a body they believe was that of a missing University of Northern Colorado student who may have been kidnapped by a man posing as a law enforcement officer.

A man was arrested in connection with the case last week.

Police had been searching for Lacy Miller, 20, since she disappeared sometime early Jan. 18.

The body was discovered in a rugged canyon about 20 miles northwest of Fort Collins, said police spokeswoman Rita Davis.

"It is a relief that they found her," said her stepfather, Mark Cohen. "Probably the hardest thing is that it takes away your hope. It is a relief if this is her. We kind of think it is."

On Wednesday, police arrested Jason Peder Clausen, 22, for investigation of kidnapping and murder. Police said they had received a tip, but would not provide details because of a gag order.

Miller's family reported her disappearance after she failed to return from a night out with friends. Her car was found parked near her parents' house in Fort Collins.

Investigators said they believe Clausen may have stopped Miller by posing as a policeman. He was known to drive around in a white sport utility vehicle with red and blue lights and act like a policeman, according to sheriff's records.

Davis said a man fitting Clausen's

description "may have also stopped or attempted to stop other women in the recent past."

Deputies found that Clausen, a former mall security guard, owned four guns, and had a bail bondsman's badge, handcuffs, Mace and a ski mask.

College Park expands campus security

BY STEPHEN MANNING

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ROCKVILLE, Md. — University of Maryland and county officials announced Monday that campus police will expand neighborhood patrols outside the College Park campus, a move prompted in part by the fatal stabbing of a student off-campus.

The stepped up police presence is part of several recommendations by a task force formed in the wake of the Nov. 10 murder of Brandon Malstrom just blocks away from campus. Along with the new patrols, bus service will be increased and lighting improved to deter crime, according to a report released Monday.

The changes mean the university force will push beyond the traditional limits of its jurisdiction — the campus borders — into the neighborhoods that are popular with students.

"The university has come to believe that we should provide an enhanced level of service to folks living in that area," said Kenneth Krouse, chief of the campus police and a task force member.

About three-quarters of the 34,000 students at Maryland live off campus,

many of them in College Park neighborhoods filled with apartment buildings and rental houses that border the university.

The presence of so many students has inevitably led to tensions with College Park residents, who complain about loud parties, parking shortages and other issues.

The city's downtown has also been the scene of several incidents following Maryland basketball games, including an incident after last year's two Final Four games when thousands of students and others flooded Route 1. Police in riot gear shot pepper spray pellets to break up the crowd.

Students have complained the university police don't do enough to protect them when they step off campus, saying non-students often show up at parties uninvited and cause trouble. Three men from Columbia, who are not students, have been charged in the Malstrom slaying.

The seven-member Route 1 Corridor Task Force was formed shortly afterward to study off-campus crime and the relationship between the university and county police forces. Members included city, county and university officials along with the university student body president.

Prince George's County police have primary jurisdiction off campus, but sometimes refer 911 calls to the university police if those officers can respond first.

Under the new plan, that agreement will be modified to give the university police greater authority. Six new officers will be hired to patrol off-campus five nights a week, and two university officers will team with Prince George's police to monitor the

U.S. Route 1 corridor on Friday and Saturday nights.

The changes will require a significant funding increase for the university force — \$283,000 in up-front costs this year and \$375,000 in following years. University President C.D. Mote Jr. has allocated funds for the increased patrols despite deep budget cuts the university faces, school spokesman George Cathcart said.

Students arrested for hiding pagers in their underwear to cheat

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BANGKOK, Thailand — Fifty-eight college students were arrested for allegedly hiding pagers in their underwear to cheat on an examination, police said Tuesday.

Police said the pagers were set to vibrate with answers to multiple-choice questions.

One vibration meant the first choice was correct, two vibrations meant the second choice and so on, police Capt. Komsan Pakson said Tuesday.

Four teachers were also arrested and accused of helping the 35 female and 23 male students. The arrests were made on Monday at Ramkhamhaeng University in Bangkok where undergraduate students were taking a final English examination for a bachelor's degree, Komsan said.

The students and teachers are likely to be charged with illegal use and operation of pagers, which is punishable by two years in prison and a fine of 100,000 baht (US\$2,300), Komsan said.

Divers search Md. ice for anthrax case clues

BY DAVID DISHNEAU
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

FREDERICK, Md. — Federal authorities investigating the deadly anthrax attacks sent divers through the ice of a secluded forest pond Monday near the former home of a scientist described by authorities as a "person of interest" in the case.

FBI spokeswoman Debra Weierman in Washington said the search was "just a continuation of our investigation on the anthrax case." She declined to provide more information.

The operation marked the second time in seven weeks that investigators have probed ponds in the Catoctin Mountains, about 45 miles west of Baltimore, for evidence of the deadly anthrax attacks.

Authorities set up at least three roadblocks around two square miles of snow-covered woodland owned by the city of Frederick, the town where former Army biological weapons researcher Dr. Steven Hatfill used to live. Hatfill, who worked for LSU for a time, has denied involvement in the October 2001 attacks.

As in December, authorities erected tents and sent divers through holes in the ice. Agents in heavy parkas watched video monitors setup on the frigid surface.

THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-LETTER

PUBLISHED SINCE 1896 BY THE STUDENTS OF THE JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY

EDITORIAL

The Invisible Man

Whether it's true or not, there is a perception on this campus that the administrators don't care very much about the students. And while many in the administration are working hard to change that perception, the problem remains within the University's highest office — the presidency.

If President William R. Brody cares deeply about the affairs of Hopkins students, he does a poor job of showing it. Rather, Brody's current efforts, however well-intended, exemplify an inaccessible president.

The president's decision to eliminate his office hours this year demonstrates his unavailability to students. Executive Assistant to the President Jerry Schnyderman said Brody often had to cut short office hours last year because of his busy travel and fundraising schedule. Furthermore, Schnyderman said students just weren't calling — the president had four times slots allotted per week and those slots weren't all being filled.

This reasoning sends the message that the president is not committed to allotting time to interact with students. If deans and professors have office hours, surely Brody can lead by example and have them as well.

The president does attempt to reach out to students by inviting various groups to his home for dinner. According to Schnyderman, last fall Brody held a dinner for Residential Advisors and Orientation staff members, as well as a separate dinner for Student Council (StuCo) members. And the president plans to have three or four student group-oriented dinners this Spring.

Inviting groups to his home for dinner is a noble gesture and a practice the president should continue. However, dinners at Nichols House for specific groups don't allow the president to reach a broader constituency. The president must make an effort to attend events that expose him to a more diverse group of students. He could start by attending one of StuCo's regular meetings — some-

thing the president hasn't done in over two years, according to a leading Council member. This would give Brody the chance to possibly be exposed to more students, rather than the leaders he hand-picks for dinner at his home.

In addition, Brody needs to make a better effort to attend campus events. Schnyderman says Brody tries to attend a variety of student activities, such as athletic events, plays or shows. It is true that the president can often be spotted at a Blue Jays lacrosse game. However, over the past two-and-a-half years he has failed, despite numerous invitations, to attend a single show put on by The Barnstormers, according to leaders in the group. Such a long-standing practice of snubbing our largest student theatrical group doesn't exemplify a good faith effort to attend student events.

Furthermore, Brody needs to be more visible on campus. Schnyderman says the president often exercises at the Recreation Center. If Brody can do that, then he should also make a point of having lunch in Levering Hall, and dinner in Terrace or Wolman. Or he could follow the lead of other university presidents and hold town meetings on campus. Schnyderman says that such meetings are typically the prerogative of deans and that it's not necessarily up to the president to call a meeting. Rather, Schnyderman suggests that it is incumbent upon students to get in touch with the president if they wish to hear from him. Such an attitude shirks the responsibility that comes with being a president.

We're tired of hearing the president is busy or doesn't have time and we're tired of having to search high and low just to see him in person. We're amazed that most students don't even know what Brody looks like. Until he acknowledges that he has an obligation to go out of his way to communicate with students and makes a better effort to do so, we will view Brody less as president and more as The Invisible Man.

Misappropriated funds

We have been living with the dozen "i-Site" terminals on campus for about three months now and frankly, we are still not impressed. A triumph off fuzzy groupthink from the campus master plan's "wayfinding committee," the terminals have replaced the familiar campus map-and-bulletin-board with waist-level touch-screen computers that can tell you where to park.

According to University President William R. Brody, as far as he knows, "i-Site is the first system of its kind at any college or university campus." Sure, a regular map could have places for shuttle schedules, parking and event information, but that wouldn't have made us unique, only thrifty.

Being the only college or university to have this system should be considered less of a milestone and more of a suggestion that all of those other colleges and universities had their priorities straight.

At least it was not our tuition money or the University's endowment that was used by the wayfinders to turn Homewood into a three-dimensional *Sharper Image* catalog. Fortunately, a donor paid for the entire i-Site network, complete with fiber-optic cabling underground and a dedi-

cated computer host for each of the dozen terminals in Garland Hall. Still, the question remains whether that money, the exact amount of which is confidential, could have been spent elsewhere to greater effect.

Why have a donor give millions for a system that accidentally calls security whenever it rains when undergraduates are living in overcrowded dorms and telling their younger relatives and friends about how miserable the living conditions are? Why accept money to pay for a glorified map when we still have no student union, a facility expected of any institution of higher learning from community college up?

Why shake down some anonymous alum, foundation or corporation for a dozen i-Sites, each of which "comes equipped with a thermometer and internal heating device so that ice and snow will cascade off its specially coated screen," according to the *Gazette*, when the wait for a student parking spot is measured in years.

If an administrator went out of his way to reject a large donation, we would be calling for his head. We see no difference when the administration squanders a large donation on useless technological showboating. Real student needs remain unmet.

More changes to come

Our long-time readers may have noticed a few changes in the *News-Letter* over the last semester. We have spent the last several months modernizing the look and improving the content of the *News-Letter* in order to offer you a better weekly newspaper.

One of our first changes was to formalize the process of writing staff editorials, creating a committee that chooses and researches topics for comment each week. To reaffirm to the reader our commitment to writing thoughtful editorials that are backed by just as many facts as our news articles, we have also moved the masthead — the list of editors and staffers that appears each issue — to the editorial page from its traditional place on A2. We are proud to have our names printed alongside our opinions.

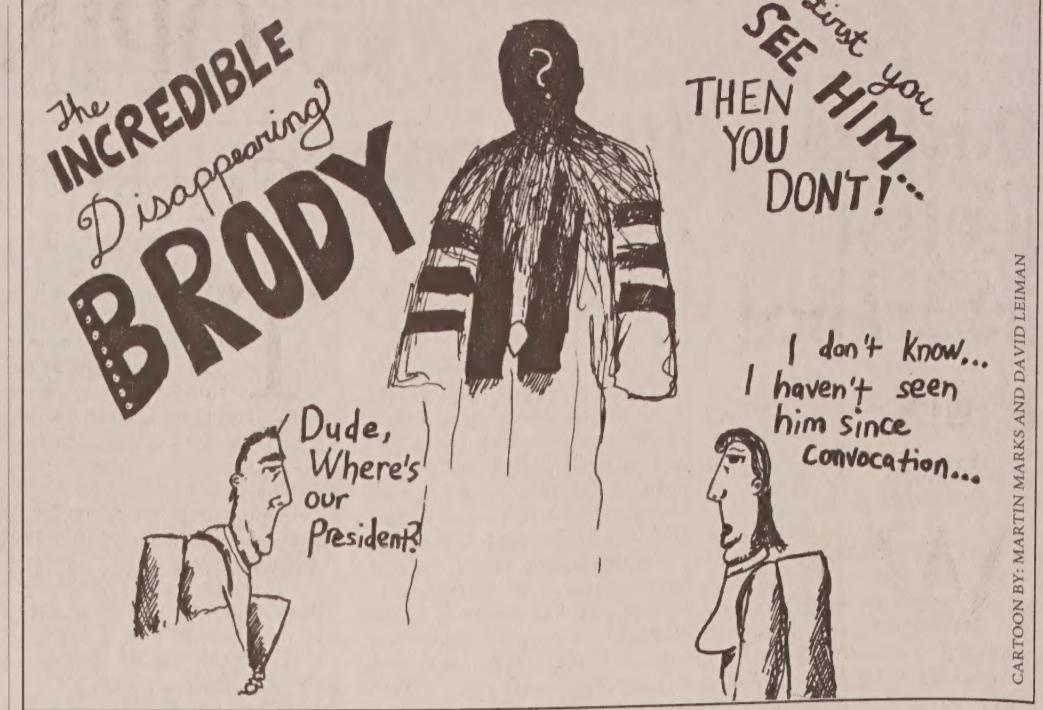
In addition, we have made a number of other significant changes to both the content and format of the *News-Letter*. For a better balance in our B section, we removed a page of Features and added one to Arts and Entertainment, giving each section an equal amount of space. This extra room has allowed our Arts section to expand its coverage to include more than just movie and CD reviews, such as the weekly Out and About column, which

provides a roundup of local night life.

We are now also offering a weekly page of news and photos from The Associated Press, so that in addition to keeping up with University and neighborhood-related news, our readers can stay informed about important national and international stories.

This is a small sampling of the changes we have made in an attempt to offer Hopkins and the surrounding community a better, more comprehensive weekly newspaper. We hope to continue making improvements this semester and appreciate any feedback on additional features or changes that readers wish to see.

In addition to any future changes to the *News-Letter*, we are also happy to announce a new series of journalism workshops to be offered to the Hopkins community this semester. The schedule, to be finalized in the coming weeks, will include reporters and editors from papers such as *The Baltimore Sun*, *The New York Times* and *The Washington Post*. While these workshops are primarily intended to address topics of interest to our staffers, we hope that other students interested in reporting and editing will also take advantage of the opportunity to interact with these professional journalists.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

JHU security provides pleasant surprise

I visited JHU's Homewood campus on Dec. 6 for a job interview with the Teach for America program. I had driven three hours to get to JHU and once I got there, I locked my keys in my car. I was directed to the Security office and within 5 minutes, I had my keys back in my hand.

I want to thank the female officer and the officer in training who helped me that morning. I was so nervous and scared, but their friendliness and helpfulness made me feel at home on a campus far away.

At my small private university, the public safety department is nowhere near as efficient and helpful as JHU's. I hope all JHU students realize what a great department you have.

Jenni Rowles
Susquehanna University

Patient's family not welcome at hospital

My sister was recently admitted to the Hopkins Hospital with my parents following in the ambulance to be with her.

This sickness, like most, was unexpected and money is tight for the family after the Holidays. They were concerned about where to stay and money. Most hospitals will allow you to stay with your family member over night. We found this not to be true at your hospital.

The night nurses were very upset to see my parents in the room with my sister. To a certain degree I understand the nurses' concern and then on the other hand they should have been more professional in caring for the family as well as the client; they never offered my parents any suggestions.

tions for where to go or who to contact for housing.

Further, my parents know more about my sister and her condition. My sister was not coherent enough to explain everything about her condition to the medical staff; that's when my parents stepped in. Yes, the doctors and nurses have the degrees but my parents have the experience with my sister and her condition and they didn't seem to want my parents.

Whatever happened to the nice nurses that asked the family if there was anything they needed help with? What happened to the nurses that made the family feel welcome and part of the care process?

I still believe that this is a great hospital but like other facilities there are issues that need to be addressed.

Urshell Wongus

Marijuana article 'fair'

Your article, "Is marijuana really good for you" was a mostly fair representation of information, although the closing remarks were a little misleading. The author spoke of addiction and how heroin is not even three times as likely, while alcohol has a much higher dependency rate than marijuana. This fact was neglected and may lead some less informed readers to believe that the activity (drinking) they engage in every weekend on college campuses nationwide

is still harmless. I think the comparison to alcohol is imperative because it adds personal perspective to the issue.

Luke Zajac

Intersession classes 'invaluable'

When I went to my "Globalization" class the first day of Intersession having been switched into it, I just wanted to see what an IR class was like. I didn't even know what the word meant.

After Professor Hazbun's first lecture we had alumni presenters offer their own opinions on Globalization. I learned the costs and benefits of globalization's world-wide spread. The class also allowed me to meet many alumni and guest lecturers who have impacted the spread of American culture throughout the world.

The class' nature offered many networking opportunities. With these new contacts, I learned what future experience would be helpful to get before graduating and was even offered a political internship. Although at first I was not sure about being transferred into the class or even attending Intersession, I am pleased with my decision and the experience I gained was invaluable to my future.

Mary Anito

LETTERS POLICY

The Johns Hopkins News-Letter welcomes letters to the editor. Letters should not exceed 250 words. Letters must be delivered to the Gatehouse by Tuesday at 7 p.m. or emailed to News.Letter@jhu.edu for inclusion in that Thursday's issue. All letters received become property of the *News-Letter* and cannot be returned. The *News-Letter* reserves the right to edit for space, grammar and clarity. Letters must include the name, address and telephone number of the author. Letters credited only to organizations will not be printed. The *News-Letter* reserves the right to limit the number of letters printed.

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OPINIONS

Mideast conflict warped by leftists

BITA AZHDAM

GUEST COLUMN

While the United States prepares for what news casts still insist on referring to as the "possible" war with Iraq, the United Nations inspectors continue to comb Iraq for plausible justifications. The inspections and, with them, any hope of a diplomatic solution to the conflict, are proving essentially fruitless. To make matters worse, neither our inspectors nor our news cameras have been able to extract any statements from Iraqi civilians, and certainly none from Iraqi scientists criticizing Saddam Hussein's history of vicious tactics.

While Iraqi civilians are surely falling in line with the propaganda of their dictatorial leader out of fear for their lives, a similar phenomenon seems to be taking place among a small faction of American university students. Only here it is the liberal minded students that, for some reason, allow their leftist "party line" to push them into a particular side of the Middle East debate.

The unfortunate reality is that the left wing cause has been hijacked, and its hijackers have devised several ingenious and inherently flawed arguments for blaming the crisis in the Middle East on one side. As evidenced by selected opinion pieces published in *The News-Letter*, a few students have attempted portrayals of a certain government in the Middle East as "bloodthirsty, apartheid and racist."

Was it Jordan, which in one month in 1970 killed tens of thousands of Palestinians? No. Was it Syria's dictatorship that flattened the city of Hama when their own citizens dared to demand basic civil rights? No. Was it Lebanon, which to this day bans Palestinians from entering numerous professions? No. Was it the Palestinian Authority, which routinely intimidates and jails its own citizens for "domestic dissent"? Of course not.

It was and is Israel, the only democracy in the Middle East and the only government that makes an explicit effort to prevent and punish what human-rights violations may occur.

As someone who, only a few years ago, found herself taking a left-of-center stance within the Israeli political spectrum, I still find it difficult to place myself entirely within the confines of any particular camp. Despite the convoluted nature of the situation, there remain several fundamental truths operating in the conflict, among them the right of Israel to exist as a sovereign state within secure borders and the right of the Palestinian people to leadership that will work to secure them a similarly sovereign state. But beyond the indispensable truths lies the realm of half-truths: subjective history, personal prejudice, religious dogma and political hagwash.

Certain myths have been constructed by the hijackers to custom fit the free-thinking, but often anti-establishment, nature of the activist movements that are an integral part of our nation's universities. These activists are not taking a stand against the civil rights infringements enforced by the previously mentioned governments, or against the senseless and deliberate murder of Israeli civilians that they fund and support. Instead, activists are being force-fed a steady diet of sensationalist propaganda that is tailored to their otherwise admirable aspirations of providing a voice for "the underdog."

And yet it is not the bogus and misplaced myths that frighten me; I am quite certain that Hopkins students are intelligent enough to distinguish between myth and fact. What disturbs me is the inability of some to approach the Arab-Israeli conflict as what it truly is: a conflict far too complex to be boiled down by rhetoric into amateurish terms of right and wrong, good and evil or oppressed and oppressor. As politically conscious students in this era of international insecurity, we should not seek to manufacture false allegations against other nations, using them as justifications to delegitimize our global neighbors. We should instead make it our business to educate ourselves as open-minded students of history, to equip ourselves with the knowledge we will undoubtedly require in order to face what will inevitably prove to be a difficult and uncertain future.

Bita Azhdam is president of the Coalition of Hopkins Activists for Israel (CHAI).

Real reform doesn't need a moratorium

In the United States, common wisdom teaches that to get something worthwhile done, you need to work hard, persevere and wait for the right moment. We couldn't be more wrong. For anything significantly progressive to happen, another Nixon has to go to China.

Take the current state of the death penalty debate in America. It used to be that opposing the death penalty required committing national political suicide, relegating activists to the sidelines of the debate, or worse yet, to the graveyard marked "European socialist propaganda." Then George Ryan went to China, abandoning a life-long history of pro-death penalty activism to cry that the system was broken.

So for those of us watching the death penalty in Maryland, depression at the election of Robert Ehrlich may have a ray of sunshine. There may be someone from "the other side" to lead us. No, Bob Ehrlich probably won't pull a Ryan on us. Lieutenant Governor Michael Steele may be just what we need, though.

According to the *Washington Post's* Lori Montgomery, Steele read the recently completed study of Maryland's death penalty and found it troubling. More importantly, Steele seems to recognize that the problem starts in the state prosecutor's offices. Already, there's a Democrat, Baltimore Delegate Salima Siler Marriott, on board, offering to work with Steele by setting up a commission to focus on prosecutors and to propose changes in state law. Maybe this is just the hopeful beginning we need.

As for Ehrlich, don't get your hopes up. Most likely, Ehrlich's just doing some 2006 posturing. He is on the record as at odds with Steele, supporting an absolute right of



RAPHAEL SCHWEBER-KOREN

THE NEW DEALER

prosecutorial decision on capital crimes. According to Montgomery's article, Ehrlich supports this discretion as nothing more than "views approved by the majority of voters in [the state prosecutors'] communities." Never mind that his words would also condone Southern prosecution standards in the midst of the Jim Crow years, Ehrlich's for local discretion because it keeps his hands clean.

Ehrlich, though, fresh out of one election cycle, understands his more immediate political problem: keeping his newfound Maryland African-American supporters while satisfying his conservative base. He needs to show the new members of his community that he at least seems to care. Co-opting a reform effort and setting up a non-binding commission to review the death-penalty discretion system seems like a classic white-washing in progress.

Here's how it works: Steele says he's "deeply troubled." To show his good faith, he works with Marriott's

'Credibility gap' presents threat for U.S.

The biggest threat to the United States is not an intercontinental missile strike from a rogue nation halfway across the world. It isn't even a terrorist sneaking through the U.S.-Canadian border with smallpox. Instead, it is the continually-eroding faith that Americans and the larger international community have in the fidelity of the Bush Administration.

This doubt, which stems from Bush's snobbish disregard for public opinion, cultivated by an election in which the public that did not want him was powerless to stop his appointment to the presidency, raises serious questions about the president's policy motivations.

Immediately, one can point to both President Bush and Vice President Cheney's extensive oil connections. But these go beyond mere family ties; in June 2001 Cheney was caught lying to the press about Halliburton Co.'s, the oil company he headed, investments in Iraq. Despite the \$73 million worth of contracts he oversaw, he maintained during the campaign that he had imposed a "firm policy" against trading with Iraq.

After the next September, however, Cheney, Bush and the rest of the administration made an about face regarding Iraq policy. Suddenly it was at the forefront of American agenda after being little more than the focus of an embarrassing inconsistency in Cheney's record. That's not to say that Iraq isn't a nation that merits fighting in the name of security, but it is the zealousness with which Bush has pursued and singled out Saddam Hussein above all other terror targets that is trou-



DAVID LEIMAN

IT'S NOT THAT SIMPLE

bling.

Perhaps most disturbing is Bush's contention that the "war" is going well. Lacking a reliable measure, one is forced to assume that because thousands of Americans have not died in a terrorist act recently, we are "winning."

But we know better.

Intentionally vague, the "war on terror" has fallen from a righteous task to become the veil behind which Bush hides his conservative agenda. One need look no further than Attorney General John Ashcroft. Among his ideas for helping fight the war while simultaneously stripping civil rights, he pushed for targeted wiretapping and recording of Internet chat rooms without a warrant. Only six months ago he tried pushing through the TIPS program, a plan aimed at getting utility workers to spy on their customers.

So are these measures, or even the decision to go to war with Iraq, wrong? Not necessarily. But what Bush hasn't

done, even in his State of the Union address, is prove that they are right. And in the face of otherwise compromising information, one can't help but doubt his motivation.

The number of secrets that this administration appears to keep does not help their cause. Up to this point, other than British Prime Minister Tony Blair's faithful defense of war in Iraq, finally echoed in Bush's Tuesday night speech during which we were offered only assertions that damnable evidence does in fact exist in Iraq and is being consciously hidden from inspectors, we have been offered only empty warheads as proof that military action is needed. As Senate Democratic leader Tom Daschle said, "At a time when we have only just begun to fight the war on terror, the American people deserve to hear why we should put hundreds of thousands of American troops at risk, spend perhaps hundreds of billions of dollars, risk our alliances, and inflame our adversaries to attack Iraq." While war on Iraq may well be needed to protect American lives, it does not seem outrageous to request evidence for why fighting Iraq before North Korea or even Saudi Arabia is needed.

Unfortunately, the President has backed himself into a corner. The option to push forward with a war that a larger number of the Americans have begun to doubt the need for while much of the rest of the world is against is not enticing. But, he dare not have massed tens of thousands of troops on Saddam's doorstep and not go knocking in.

The problem is that Bush has painted himself into such a tight box he can't get out without losing face. Already the question of North Korea has been raised. Despite its inclusion in last year's Axis of Evil, and legiti-

mate concerns that it is much further along in its nuclear weapons programs and thus seemingly exponentially more capable of causing Americans harm, the North Koreans have gotten off with nothing more than a collectively dissatisfied scowl from Bush, Secretary of State Colin Powell and others. As Democratic Minority Leader in the House of Representatives Nancy Pelosi said, "The credibility gap widens."

This "credibility gap" is much more substantial than any suffered under the previous administration. Despite Republican outcry that the nation could not trust a man who would try to cover up his extramarital affair, one rarely got the feeling that former-president Bill Clinton was deceiving the American people. Yet Bush, who ran on a campaign promising a return of integrity to Washington, has delivered anything but that. Bush's deceptions are not frivolous semantic accounts of sexual impropriety. Rather, as columnist Paul Krugman said in a *Washington Post* interview, "We're talking about levels of irresponsibility that have real consequences." But, as Krugman admits, "It's a very uncomfortable thing to question the honesty and motives of your leaders."

Uncomfortable as it may be, Bush's actions warrant it. Ultimately, however, it may not be his agenda that is flawed, but it is the way in which he pursues it. By keeping the American people and the rest of the world in the dark, he only hurts our cause by inspiring more doubt than reassurance at a time when the only thing we don't need more of is uncertainty.

David Leiman can be reached at dleiman@jhunewsletter.com

The state of my union: it sure isn't Texas

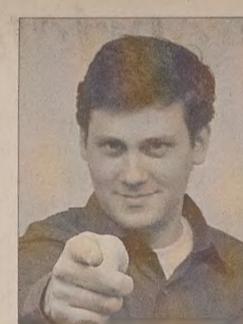
Mr. Speaker, Mr. Vice President, members of Congress my fellow Americans, I report to you today that the state of our union is... is... well, it's been worse. (Applause)

Unemployment is up, the stock market is down, we have alienated some of our closest allies in pursuit of what looks to be a personal vendetta, but at least inflation is low and we haven't been attacked within our borders for a year and a half.

We face many trials in the coming

year, not the least of which is the ongoing threat of terrorist attack and continued economic stagnation, but I would like to address the bulk of my statement tonight to a cancer that is spreading throughout this nation's corridors of power. This cancer isn't incompetence or bribery, although arguments can be made that both ills are afflicting our government. What I am speaking of is cynicism.

Our national leaders, especially our president, have an agenda that is generally not popular with the populace, but they believe that by inaccur-



CHARLES DONEFER

WE'RE LEFT, THEY'RE WRONG

me to my next point. (Thunderous applause follows for moving to another topic)

Although the President's advisors and supporters in the conservative media might tell you otherwise, we currently have a fairly flat tax system. If you count the income tax (which is progressive) along with payroll, sales, state-level and excise taxes (which are regressive), you would find that all income brackets pay a relatively equal share of their income in taxes of all sorts.

Those in favor of additional taxes for the rich look exclusively at the income tax to generate statistics that say the rich pay the vast majority of taxes. Although they certainly know better, they conveniently forget that the tax burden of poor and lower-middle class Americans is almost entirely composed of those other taxes, which disproportionately fall on them. When President Bush argues for a flatter tax code, he is in fact arguing for a regressive tax code. The small minority of economists who believe in supply-side and trickle-down economics might say that regressive taxation might generate growth, but they cannot make their case because the Administration's prevalent cynicism argues that the people cannot be convinced, they can only be duped. (Applause)

Much of the President's speech was dedicated to the situation in Iraq. In this case, the Administration has made an airtight case for war. This case does not rest on the threat that Iraq poses any threat to the United States or that Saddam Hussein has committed any human rights violations that many American-installed dictators haven't perpetrated with our blessing. The case is made entirely on a Catch-22. If inspectors find weapons, Iraq is in breach and if they don't, Iraq is hiding them. If Saddam should be deposed because he builds opulent palaces instead of feeding his people (much like American puppet Mobutu Sese Seko did in Zaire), why shouldn't we be even more belligerent towards Saudi Arabia, which uses its oil wealth to fund terrorists that attack Israel daily and radical madrassas that preach hatred of America? Is Iraq anything special in the region, or do we just need a target to distract us from our failure to get Osama bin Laden? (Applause)

Task the President to level with the American people. We are smart and generally levelheaded. We don't need to be duped with twisted statistics or circular logic.

Charles Donefer can be reached at cdonefer@jhunewsletter.com

My Turn

Now graduate students, professors and other JHU affiliates can write opinion pieces for the Johns Hopkins News-Letter. For more information, email opinions@jhunewsletter.com, or call us at 410-516-6000.

It's your turn!



SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Hopkins study takes a new stance on bioterrorism and technology

BY TRISTEN CHUN
THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-Letter

Recent advances in life science studies have played an important role in improving the living conditions in today's society. Their benefits are most evident in medicine, where diagnosing, curing and preventing fatal diseases have become easier and more successful than ever.

Researchers at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health's Center for Civilian Biodefense Strategies, however advise that the same technologies, if misused by terrorists, can also result in terrible disasters.

For example, after the anthrax attacks immediately following 9/11, a lot of public attention has been given to the possibility of another attack. Dr. Gigi Kwik, and her colleagues, argued in the *Biosecurity and Bioterrorism* journal that such biological attacks are certainly possible in the future, and they urge governments and the scientific communities to adopt a system of "checks and balances" in order to prevent them.

According to a recent press release, Hopkins researchers call the misapplication of the powers of biotechnology towards biological weapons development and use the "Persephone effect."

In essence, manipulating modern biology to create weapons of mass destruction is compared to Hades' kidnapping of Persephone in Greek mythology. Most of today's biological research is done openly, allowing free communications between re-

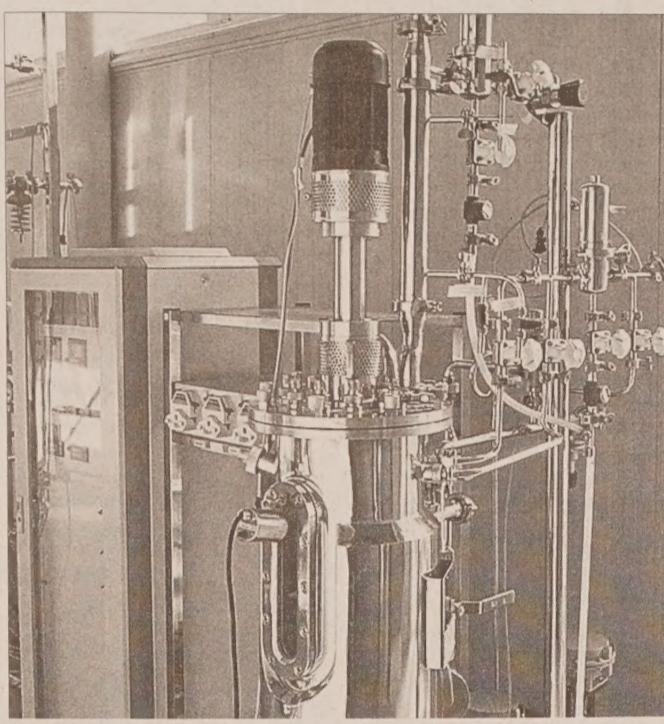
searchers and the public. Dr. Kwik claims that this openness has contributed substantially to scientific progress, but at the same time, it poses an inherent risk. With so much information given out in scientific publications, bioscience is very vulnerable toward such Persephone effects.

Take aerosol technology for an example. The advance of the technology now allows insulin to be inhaled rather than injected, improving the quality of life among diabetics. However, the same breakthrough could make it easier for a biological weapon, like anthrax, to get past the lung's immune system. The technologies for generating antibiotic-resistant bacteria can also be manipulated to create a strain of bacteria that is resistant to the usual therapies.

The Soviet scientists are believed to have developed these technologies to create antibiotic-resistant forms of plague, anthrax and tularemia. Some Australian scientists were also able to create a lethal form of mousepox by adding a single gene to the virus. Today's scientists are believed to be capable of even creating a virus from scratch.

Other areas of scientific research, such as nuclear weapons research, are usually governed by the "command and control" regulatory regimes, where the rules are clearly defined. Biological research cannot be ruled under this "top-down" system, because the scope of regulation is not always explicit.

In order to ensure security in biological science without hampering beneficial scientific research, Dr. Kwik and her colleagues pro-



COURTESY OF HTTP://ICP.CSIC.ES/CONTROL
Equipment such as this fermentor is used to do research to help better understand and respond to biological weapon attacks.

posed a self-governance system. The system, they argued, should not be regarded as one measure, but rather as individual threads of control woven into a network of considerable strength. The system emphasizes the increased awareness of biosecurity and bioterrorism risks among scientists and the scientific leadership. It also stresses the "bottom-up" approach in biosecurity, including in-

volve ment from working scientists. Periodic assessment of how well the system is working should also be done to provide feedback to the government and to scientists.

"Over time, we must construct the systems of checks and balances needed to assure that the growing power of the life sciences is used to protect life, not to destroy it," said Dr. Kwik, in a recent press release.

UPCOMING LECTURES AT JHMI AND HOMEWOOD

Wednesday, January 29

4:00 p.m. How HIV Exploits Dendritic Cells to Drive Infection
Melissa Pope, Ph.D.
Scientist, Center for Biomedical Research, Population Council
303 WBSB
Sponsored by: Pharmacology & Molecular Sciences

4:00 p.m. Analysis of Survival Data from Case-Control Family Studies
Joanna H. Shih, Ph.D.
National Cancer Institute, Biometric Research Branch
W2030, BSPH
Sponsored by: Department of Biostatistics

4:00 p.m. The Role of the HDL Receptor, SR-BI, in Atherosclerosis
Annabelle Rodriguez, M.D.
Assistant Professor of Medicine, Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center
Marburg 1 Conference Room
Sponsored by: Division of Endocrinology and Metabolism

Thursday, January 30
7:45 a.m. Pathology Grand Rounds: Spectral Imaging, Tissue Micro arrays and Digital Pathology
David L. Rimm, M.D., Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Pathology, Yale University School of Medicine, New Haven, CT.
West Lecture Hall, WBSB
Sponsored by: Department of Pathology

12:45 p.m. Neuroscience Research Seminar Series: NMDA Receptors on the Move
Gary Westbrook, M.D.
Vollum Institute
West Lecture Hall, Ground Floor, WBSB
Sponsored by: Department of Neuroscience

4:00 p.m. Polycystins Modulate Ion Channel Trafficking in Renal Epithelial Cells
William B. Guggino, Ph.D.
Professor of Physiology and Pediatrics, JHU School of Medicine
Ross 903
Sponsored by: Division of Nephrology

4:00 p.m. Signaling Properties of the PhoQ Histamine Kinase
Carey Walburger, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Microbiology, Columbia University
Mudd 100, Homewood Campus
Sponsored by: Department of Biology

4:00 p.m. The Mechanism and Consequences of Bax Translocation to Mitochondria in Apoptosis
Richard Youle, Ph.D.
Biochemistry Section, Surgical Neurology Branch/ National Institute of Neurological Disorders
303 WBSB
Sponsored by: Department of Pharmacology and Molecular Sciences

Friday, January 31
11:00 a.m. From Pixels to Semantics: Research on Intelligent Image Indexing and Retrieval
James Z. Wang, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor, School of Information Sciences and Technology
Meyer B-105
Sponsored by: Health Sciences, Pathology Informatics

Monday, February 3
12:00 p.m. JHBMC General Clinical Research Center Lecture Series: State of the Art of Bionutritional Support for Research

Lynn Moseley, M.P.H., R.D., L.D.
JHBMC-GCRC Clinical Dietitian
Nursing Classroom, B4-North (Room 401), Bayview Medical Center
Sponsored by: JHBMC-GCRC

12:00 p.m. Prions Bare All: Proteins That Elicit Disease or Expose Diversity
Heather L. True-Krob, Ph.D.
MIT, The Whitehead Institute
The M. Daniel Lane Conference Center, 612 Physiology Bldg.
Sponsored by: Department of Biological Chemistry

4:00 p.m. Genetic Analysis of Melanocyte Stem Cells in Zebrafish
Steve Johnson, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor, Department of Genetics, Washington University School of Medicine, St. Louis, MO
Meyer 1-191
Sponsored by: McKusick-Nathans Institute of Genetic Medicine

Tuesday, February 4
12:00 p.m. How Does Cryptococcus Get Its Coat
Dr. Tamara Doering
Department of Molecular Microbiology, Washington University School of Medicine
The M. Daniel Lane Conference Center, 612 Physiology Bldg.
Sponsored by: Department of Biological Chemistry

Wednesday, February 5
8:15 a.m. The Impact of Scientific Uncertainty on the Development of Health Policy
Leon Gordis, M.D., Dr.P.H.
Professor of Epidemiology and of Pediatrics
Room W2030, BSPH
Sponsored by: The JHMI Center for Clinical Trials

1:30 p.m. Cellular Adaptations to Client Protein Load in the Endoplasmic Reticulum
David Ron, M.D.
Professor of Cell Biology and Medicine
517 PCTB
Sponsored by: Biophysics and Biophysical Chemistry

5:00 p.m. Humanization of Glycoprotein Production in Insect Cells
Y. C. Lee, Ph.D.
Professor of Biology, Johns Hopkins University
Mudd Auditorium, Homewood Campus
Sponsored by: Department of Biology Colloquium

Thursday, February 6
12:00 p.m. Molecular Mechanisms of Synaptic Specificity in C. elegans
Kang Shen, Ph.D.
Department of Anatomy, University of California San Francisco
The M. Daniel Lane Conference Center, 612 Physiology Bldg.
Sponsored by: Department of Biological Chemistry

4:00 p.m. Did Sex Generate the Three Cellular Domains? A Genomic Basis for Darwin's Unexplained 2nd Law of Variation
Bernt Walther, Ph.D.
Department of Molecular Biology, University of Bergen & Princeton University
Mudd 100, Homewood Campus
Sponsored by: Department of Biology

Friday, February 7
3:30 p.m. Biochemical and Genetic Analyses of MLL Cleavage
James J. D. Hsieh, M.D., Ph.D.
Postdoctoral Fellow, Adult Oncology, DFCI Harvard
CRB 3M42
Sponsored by: Hematology & Immunology Society

Which gaming console to buy?

BY ROBERT DAVIS
THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-Letter

Nintendo's figure is considered a more realistic number for its console.

Having the fastest growing software catalogue of the three major consoles, and it is starting to rival the depth of the PS2. Microsoft has also gone to create some valuable game franchises of its own, most notably "Halo" from Bungee Software.

But one thing is clear, console gaming has become a staple of college life. It is multipurposed; most models serve as both DVD player and gaming system. It has the ability to bring every person on your floor to your door. And every one of them has his own opinion as which to one is best.

The guy across the hall touts the Nintendo Gamecube because of its amazing game franchises that go back 20 years. The guy to your left tells you that the Microsoft X-Box is the best because nothing beats drunken Halo on a Saturday night. And the guy to your right doesn't tell you anything because he hasn't stopped playing "Grand Theft Auto: Vice City" for the past four days.

To make matters worse, your roommate refuses to turn off his 8-bit classic Nintendo Entertainment System (NES) until he beats both Link and Zelda in the same week. So I am here to help with some discussion on the three major players out there.

The Playstation 2 (PS2), selling for \$199, is the oldest of the trio, the PS2 has maintained market dominance since its arrival in November of 2000. It causes masses of crazed gamers to line up two days ahead of schedule for the chance to play what was going to be the greatest gaming system to date. And has only gained support since then.

Being that the PS2 is the oldest of the contenders, it does have the obvious drawback of slower hardware.

While it still produces amazing visual effects, the video playback cannot compare to the polygon counts of the X-Box. Also to give the PS2 all the functionality of the X-Box, some modifications are required. The hard drive, broadband network interface kit and four-controller MultiTap, all adding up to around \$220, can really rack up the cost of the PS2.

From a gaming prospective, it boasts the largest game collection, including such hot tickets as "GTA: Vice City" and "Devil May Cry." Not to mention it is the home system for arguably the most popular gaming series, "Final Fantasy." With future titles including "Devil May Cry: 2" and "Tom Clancy's Splinter Cell," you can be sure your investment will keep you far from the troubles of school work for months to come.

Add to this, all your original Playstation games and controllers can be used with the PS2 (Sorry, memory sticks are not compatible). The PS2 is made only better by the fact that it can act as your stand alone DVD and CD player. No need for three separate systems in your room: total unity. The DVD player is interlaced scan with RCA composite output. On the smaller TVs in most dorm rooms this is more than adequate.

But if you boast a 25-inch or larger TV, the picture quality is not the best that can be achieved from the DVD standard. And while the DVD playback can be controlled by the controller, it is highly recommended that you purchase the remote kit for \$30 more. It will add far more functionality to the DVD.

The X-Box, selling for \$199 is the new kid on the block. This console is backed by the biggest player in the PC world, Microsoft. And they make sure you know it. Bill Gates' pet project spent more on marketing than any other gaming company ever had before and they created the most powerful hardware system available to date.

The X-Box contains polygons that are the building blocks of 3-D graphic images. Increasing the number polygons results in sharper, more precise images.

The graphics processor also supports high resolution levels of up to 1920x1085 pixels. In comparison, the PlayStation 2 has a 150-MHz graphics processor and produces 70 million polygons per second. The GameCube has a 162-MHz graphics processor and produces 12 million polygons per second. It should be pointed out that the PlayStation 2 and X-Box figures are theoretical top speeds, it's unlikely that your system will reach that limit.

As an entertainment system, the X-Box is top flight. It can act as your CD, DVD, and MP3 player. The DVD player is a progressive scan unit with high definition composite video output, the highest quality DVD playback available.

While all of this comes with the added price of the required DVD remote kit, it is well worth it. The X-Box satisfies your every need for polygons and high quality video playback.

The Gamecube, selling for \$149 is the least expensive of our trio. The Nintendo Gamecube builds on the titanic gaming franchise of Nintendo, with a newer hardware configuration.

It is the first console from Nintendo not to use the familiar cartridges, instead opting for a mini-DVD format that is unique in the current market. And with a price point \$50 below the competition, the Gamecube won't have you eating Ramen to meet your needs for entertainment.

The Gamecube hardware is probably its largest drawback. The mini-DVD format prohibits any DVD playback. Add to that odd shape, color, and controller configuration make it clear the target audience is the average eight year old *Pokemon* fan. Also the cube shape makes it an odd fit in most AV set-ups.

Considering all this, it is probably not the best option for a dorm gaming system. As for hard drive and networking, the hard drive is simply not an option and networking is not a touted strong point.

The strength of the Gamecube lies with its game titles. With more exclusive titles than either the PS2 or the X-Box, the Gamecube quickly becomes the console of choice for the nostalgia of the NES and Super NES gaming franchises. Link, Mario, Kirby and the whole crew are back in such titles as "The Legend of Zelda," "Super Mario Brothers Sunshine" and "Super Smash Bros Melee."

Not to mention that the Gamecube sports the largest collection of *Star Wars*-based games of all the three consoles. The major downside of the Gamecube is the amount of attention spent to children under the age of 12, with excessive *Pokemon* and *SpongeBob* titles appearing in the mix of great classics.

No matter which game system you decide upon, you cannot really go wrong. Each system will do its intended job, make you forget about the mountain of Orgo reading you still have to do tonight. Just remember to choose the system that you will get the most use out of and keep in mind that your GPA is inversely proportional to the hours you spend gaming on any platform.

Court orders Kazaa to cease operations

BY JONATHAN GROVER

THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-Letter

The story of Napster is now documented in history: big entertainment companies sue small US-based corporation and essentially cripple it. It seems that history is now trying to repeat itself, but the defendant named in the lawsuit is Kazaa, a "peer-to-peer" sharing program that has become even more popular than Napster was.

Closing down Kazaa, however, may prove to be more difficult. The legal battle is going to transcend borders, dealing with the laws of at least five countries in three continents.

The brainstorm of Scandinavian businessmen Niklas Zennstrom and Janis Friis, who were aiming to improve "peer-to-peer" file sharing in the late 1990s, the first version of Kazaa was created by programmers Jaan Tallinn, Ahti Heinla and Pirit Kasesalu.

The three young men from Estonia were commissioned by a company in the Netherlands and produced the first version of Kazaa in September 2000. Since that time the program has been included as the engine for other file-sharing programs, such as Grokster and Morpheus, and has been downloaded an astounding 160 million times. In

fact at any given time there are more than three million people running the program, giving users access to terabytes of software, music, TV shows and movies.

According to *PCWorld* magazine, Kazaa is called a "peer-to-peer (P-to-P) software that allows users to search each other's hard drives for files they want and to download those."

Kazaa doesn't require a main server to work, unlike Napster, which was shut down when it installed filters on its servers after a legal battle in the United States.

Applications based on FastTrack's technology are rapidly gaining popularity.

larity, according to *Webnoize* magazine. Consumers transferred 1.81 billion digital media files using any of the three applications during October, a rise of 20 percent from the 1.51 billion files downloaded during September. These statistics suggest that about half a million people use the music sharing software at any given second.

Recently a coalition of entertainment companies filed suit against Kazaa in the US District Court in Los Angeles. According to the *Washington Post* the coalition has called the service a "candy store of infringement".

Nonetheless, the programmers of Kazaa did not intend for the program to take on this illegal nature, as they created it to allow users to share files of any sort.

"We were skeptical ... we had no idea it would take off like this," said Tallinn in a recent interview with the *Washington Post*.

In fact the programmers demanded cash upfront, rather than stock in the company as payment for programming Kazaa. Zennstrom believes that the program merely transforms the internet into a "global hard drive".

The lawsuit is currently progressing slowly due to the jurisdictional issues. An American judge ordered the three programmers to cooperate with entertainment industry lawyers who were wanting documents and testimony detailing the workings of the program. According to *CNN.com*, Tallin City Judge Aase Sammelselg rejected the US ruling, saying that it was "not in conformity with the Estonian laws".

In fact, the US case becomes even more tenuous, according to Tallin, as in Europe the technology already has been declared perfectly legal.

Whatever the decision ultimately is, it will surely set a precedent for years to come. Is the internet truly a global entity, outside the reach of any country? Or can any one country dictate the flow of information within its borders, regardless of the origin of that information? These questions are only on the tip of the iceberg as we enter a new wired world.

SCIENCEBRIEFS

Shellfish threatened near east coastline

HARTFORD, Conn. (AP) — Scientists studying shellfish in New Haven Harbor have found damage to clams likely caused by the installation of the Cross-Sound power cable, according to a report for the state Department of Agriculture.

Clams taken after the work stopped show damage caused by sediment, said Inke Sunila, a state shellfish pathologist. The clams also exhibited "inflammatory responses," an indication that the organism was under stress, she said.

"This would be consistent with the clams being exposed to sediment with such an explosive force that they had no time to close," Sunila wrote in her report.

Cross-Sound has not been able to operate the 24-mile power cable to Shoreham, N.Y., because it failed last May to bury the cable to the required depth in seven spots in New Haven Harbor.

The DEP last week rejected the firm's request to let it operate the line while it works to complete burial of the line.

The 330-megawatt cable was designed to bring cheaper Canadian hydropower to Long Island, N.Y. Cross Sound is a joint venture of United Illuminating Co. and Hydro-Quebec subsidiaries.

—The Associated Press

Without the funding, the Environmental Protection Agency will not approve plans to clean the air over the Dallas and Houston regions and the state will face losing hundreds of millions in federal highway money.

"Without clean air, Texans may expect outcomes that negatively affect a gambit of quality of life issues from health and wellness to clearly economic development," said Deborah Cannon, chairwoman of the Greater Houston Partnership.

Other legislative priorities for the Metro 8 Chambers of Commerce include funding for job training, transportation and education programs.

The Metro 8 is made up of the state's largest chambers from Arlington, Austin, Corpus Christi, Dallas, El Paso, Fort Worth, Houston and San Antonio.

—The Associated Press

Controversy arises over human cloning

A bill to ban human cloning is generating sharp controversy as it moves toward third reading, with more than 100 proposed amendments.

The Assisted Human Reproduction Act has been in the works ever since the royal commission on new reproductive technologies reported in 1993.

"We would like it to be passed as quickly as possible," said McLellan's spokeswoman Farah Mohamed in an interview Tuesday as the bill was debated in the Commons.

The bill has taken on some increased urgency in the light of claims by the Raelian sect that it has already cloned three infants, even though those claims are not widely believed.

No party opposes the cloning ban but there's a lot of controversy over other aspects of the bill, which also deals with stem cell research.

For example, the Canadian Alliance has proposed that a person born through donor insemination be entitled, upon reaching adulthood.

—The Associated Press

Texas to improve air quality controls

The chambers of commerce for some of Texas' largest cities laid out a slew of legislative priorities Tuesday but did not say how to pay for one of the programs that would cost the most.

The Metro 8 Chambers of Commerce said it supports fully funding an \$188 million annual program designed to improve air quality.

SENIORS: 2003 Louis Sudler Prize in the Arts

The deadline for the Sudler Prize, which carries a \$1,500 cash award, is FRIDAY, MARCH 7.

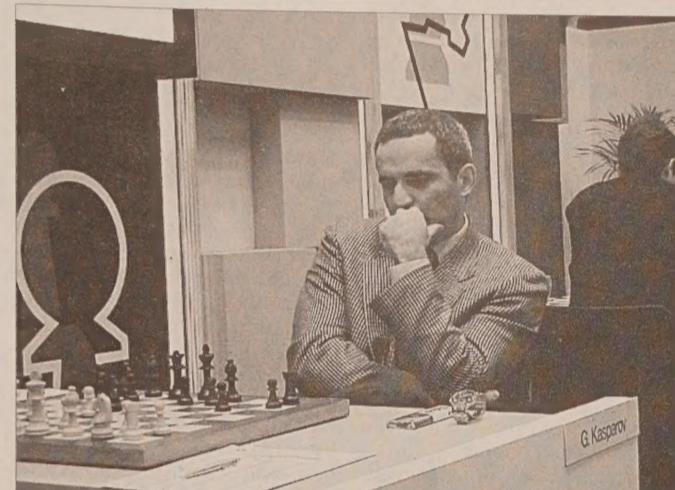
The Sudler Prize is awarded to recognize excellence in performance, execution, or composition in one of the arts. These include, but are not limited to, music, theater, dance, fiction, poetry, painting, drawing, sculpture, photography, film, or videotape.

To be eligible, you must be a senior in good academic standing and with sufficient credits to receive a degree at commencement in May 2003.

To compete for the Sudler Prize, submit the following to Ms. Julia Morgan, Sudler Prize Committee Coordinator, President's Office, 242 Garland Hall: (1) a completed application form; (2) a letter of recommendation from a Hopkins faculty member familiar with your work; (3) at least two examples of work done while you were a Hopkins student. You may also submit additional evidence of artistic achievement, such as critiques or reviews of your work.

To obtain an application form, or for additional information, contact Ms.

Morgan at (410)516-4697 or jmorgan@jhu.edu.



GARRY KASPAROV, pictured above, contemplates his next move.

in front of the program names indicates that they run on parallel processors. A single processor version of Deep Junior was released almost two years ago and can be run on a PC.

Kasparov's current challenger can only process three million moves per second, a small fraction of its predecessor, and an even smaller portion of the mind boggling 10^{120} possible combinations in a 40 move chess game. But perhaps most important is the computer's style of play.

Deep Blue selected the best move on the basis of factors such as the risk of losing pieces and the arrangement of pawns on the board. It ran on refrigerator-sized hardware.

Deep Fritz, which played reigning chess champion Vladimir Kramnik last October, runs on a compact disc

because its algorithms discard many moves early in the search if they fail to threaten the opponent. Deep Junior has a bolder style of play, because the programming it received allows it to forfeit pieces to gain a positional advantage.

"I think what we are seeing at the moment is getting away from the materialistic shape that programs used to play chess and moving into a new era where chess programs understand more abstract concepts," said Shay Bushinsky, in a recent interview with the *Washington Post*.

Garry Kasparov was widely considered the best chess player in history until he was beaten by his one time protege, Vladimir Kramnik. His six matches against Deep Junior started January 26, and will go to February 7.

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SPORTS

NFL should review replay

Everyone is talking about the State of the Union, but let's consider the state of the National Football League. With the number of viewers rising, and interest at an all-time high, the NFL is giving Major League Baseball a run for its money to its claim of being America's pastime.

It seems like every year there is a different set of teams battling for the playoffs and the Super Bowl. This year's champ, the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, is just another example. They had never been to a Super Bowl before last Sunday.

Former Commissioner Pete Rozelle envisioned competitive parity among NFL teams as being the key to success and it looks like he was right.

But there is always room for improvement and the NFL is no exception.

The league made great strides in 1999 by reinstating the instant replay process, which had been absent since 1991. But as this year's playoff games illustrate, instant replay still falls short of what it could achieve.

Specifically, it places too many limits on coaches' rights to challenge calls made on the field. The NFL should allow coaches to challenge penalty rulings made on the field, an inexplicable omission that is detracting from the competitiveness of games.

The examples from the postseason speak for themselves.

First, look at the Pittsburgh Steelers, who lost to the Tennessee Titans on a controversial call. In an AFC playoff game, Titans' kicker Joe Nedney lined up for a go-ahead field goal very late in the fourth quarter. He missed the kick, but referees called roughing the kicker on the Steelers' Dewayne Washington.

Replays showed that the contact between Nedney and the Steelers' player may not have warranted the penalty. Some said that Nedney went

out of his way to make sure that Washington hit him. Regardless, the penalty afforded Nedney another chance, and he made the kick and won the game for the Titans, who later lost to the Raiders in the AFC Championship game.

The New York Giants' are probably in favor of changing instant replay as well. On the last play of their playoff game against the San Francisco 49ers, referees neglected to make a pass-interference call that would have given the Giants an op-



ERIC RIDGE
IN THE GAME

portunity to win the game. They lost, 39-38. The day after the game, the NFL announced that the referees had erred. Still, the 49ers advanced to the next week's game where they lost.

The point is not necessarily that the wrong teams prevailed, but rather that the games were decided on the wrong merits. The teams are supposed to be the variables, not the referees.

The postseason problems have sparked a firestorm, and some are even calling for instant replay to be abolished completely. On Fox television, former Dallas Cowboy quarterback turned analyst Troy Aikman spoke out against instant replay.

"If you can't get all the calls right all the time, then there shouldn't be any replay rule," Aikman said. He then added, "I'm absolutely opposed to the replay rule."

Does that make sense? Just apply Aikman logic to the real world and you won't be so sure. If we can't catch everybody who is committing a crime, does that mean we shouldn't catch anybody? Aikman is wrong — instant replay should stay.

Eliminating instant replay, therefore, is not a very realistic argument. Instead, the NFL should permit coaches to challenge penalties assessed on the field, but they should only allow one more challenge per team, per game. The system would police itself by the virtue of the scarcity of resources. No team wants to waste a time out (assessed if the ruling on the field is upheld) or waste a precious challenge. As a result, coaches would only challenge plays that showed blatant referee mistakes.

The postseason problems have sparked a firestorm, and some are even calling for instant replay to be abolished completely.

Games would be decided more fairly, teams would have less to complain about, and referees would get the chance to correct bad calls.

The message is clear: instant replay needs to be reviewed.

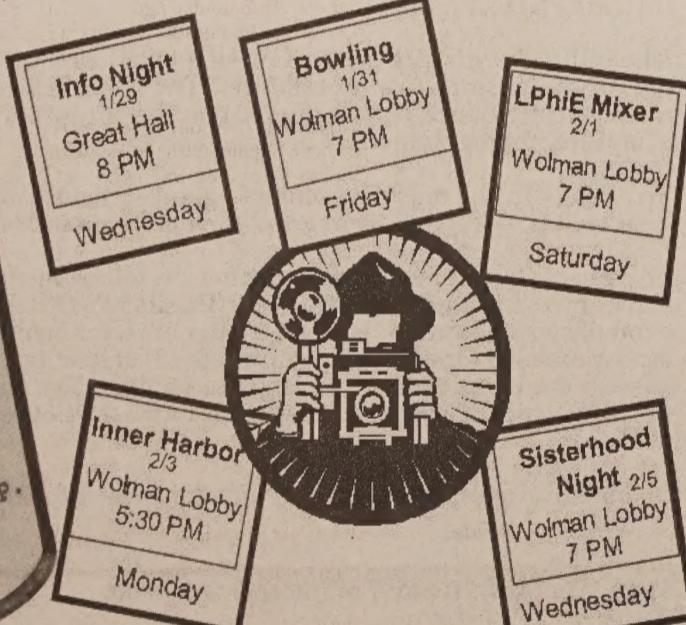
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Wrestling loses to Conf. rival

BY JAMIE SPANGLER
THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-LETTER

After a tough start to the season, the Johns Hopkins Wrestling team found consistency in early January, elevating the team to potential contenders for the Centennial Conference title.

The team's record now stands at 6-8 overall with an impressive 2-1 mark in the Conference. Despite a loss to Ursinus last week, the Blue Jays still have a chance to tie for the Centennial Conference title.

Last Tuesday, Ursinus handed Johns Hopkins its first conference loss. Jason Suslavich recorded his 15th victory, tying him for the team lead with John Witzenbocker, and Karol Gryczynski won his 50th career match, but the Blue Jays came up just short, losing by a score of 22-18.

This loss dimmed the Blue Jays' prospects of winning the conference title, but if Ursinus loses one of its next two matches and Hopkins wins its next two matches, the Blue Jays could claim a share of the title.

A key match in determining the conference victor will be Johns Hopkins' match against McDaniel next Tuesday at 7 p.m. in the Athletic Center.

Over winter vacation and Intersession, the Blue Jays competed in three tournaments: the Petrofes Tournament, the Citrus Open/Citrus Duals and the North/South Duals. At the Petrofes Tournament in early December, the Johns Hopkins wrestling team claimed eleventh place out of the thirteen schools present.

Despite the team's disappointing finish, three individuals placed sixth or better in their respective weight classes.

Freshman John Witzenbocker went 2-2 with a pin in the tournament to earn fourth place in the 125-pound weight class. Juniors Mike Yuhanian (174) and Rob Curry (184) both finished in sixth place in their weight classes with 2-3 records.

The next meet for the wrestling team was the Citrus Open/Citrus Duals in Fort Lauderdale, Florida on December 29th and 30th. In the Citrus Open, Johns Hopkins tied for fif-

teenth place out of eighteen schools. The only Blue Jay to place in this competition was Witzenbocker, who attained second place in his weight class with a 3-1 record.

In one of his matches, Witzenbocker defeated Dan Stanton of Augustana, who is ranked eighth in the nation, by a score of 9-5. In the Citrus Duals the next day, Johns Hopkins lost all four of its matches.

The North/South Duals was a turning point in our season.

The team really started to gel and the fire we lacked earlier in the season began to show.

—MIKE YUHANIAK

However, they were competing against teams ranked among the top 25 in the country.

Some bright spots were sophomore Jason Suslavich (141) and freshman Dave Hopkins (149), each of whom recorded three wins in the weekend tournament. Individuals were excelling, but the team was unable to come together.

Next came the North/South Duals on January 11th at Ursinus College. The Blue Jays' first opponent was MIT. Freshman Ken Kanara (125) and Suslavich pinned their opponents to carry the Blue Jays to a 39-12 victory.

Hopkins then lost its next match to Trinity College 31-7, despite a major decision by senior Brian Frank (133).

Subsequently, Hopkins defeated Bridgewater State in an exciting competition that came down to the last match.

With the score tied at 18, junior Karol Gryczynski (285) won the final match by decision to give the Blue Jays a 21-18 victory.

The Hopkins wrestlers capped off the day with a 24-18 victory over Washington & Jefferson. Junior Tim Wagner (165) and sophomore Ken Rys (184) each recorded pins in this match.

The Blue Jays came out of the North/South Duals not only with their first win of the season, but also with a respectable 3-1 record.

"The North/South Duals was a turning point in our season," said co-captain Mike Yuhanian. "The team really started to gel and the fire we lacked earlier in the season began to show. We were working as hard if not harder than any other team, and we carried our intensity from practice to the mat."

Riding the momentum from the North/South Duals, the Blue Jays went on to sweep their opponents at the Gettysburg Quad Match on January 18th.

The Blue Jays defeated two conference competitors at this meet, Gettysburg and Muhlenberg. The Johns Hopkins wrestlers won nine out of the ten matches against

Gettysburg to take the contest 33-6. After that, the Blue Jays upset Muhlenberg, a team that beat them by almost 30 points last year. Sophomore Tony Dambro (197) and John Witzenbocker both won by major decision, guiding the Blue Jays to a 23-14 victory.

The Jays finished the day with a 37-13 win over Thaddeus Stevens. Dave Hopkins obtained his team-leading fourth pin of the season and Dambro won by major decision in this match.

One of the biggest factors in the wrestling team's mid-season turnaround was intersession.

"Johns Hopkins is one of the most academically challenging schools in the Centennial Conference, so not having classes worked to our advantage. We were able to focus completely on wrestling," stated Yuhanian.

"We had a lot of time to practice and recover. We had all kinds of time to work on anything we needed to work on," added fellow captain Tim Wagner. "It will be harder to keep up with workouts once classes start, but we have the dedication and we will find time."

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SPORTS

At home, Blue Jays soar past Eagles

BY ERIC RIDGE
THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-Letter

In front of a home crowd for the first time this season, the men's and women's swimming teams triumphed over the Mary Washington Eagles on Friday. The victories improved the men's overall record to 5-5 while it helped the women's team improve to a 4-6 record.

The men's team was led by a young group of talented swimmers, including several freshmen. Among them was freshman Matthew Chana who won both the 1000 meter freestyle with a time of 9:47.56 and the 500 meter freestyle in 4:55.24. He was the only Blue Jay to win two events and his 1000 meter time was extremely fast.

Juniors Kyle Robinson and Loren Robinson won the 50 meter freestyle, and the 100 meter freestyle with times of 21.59 and 48.98, respectively.

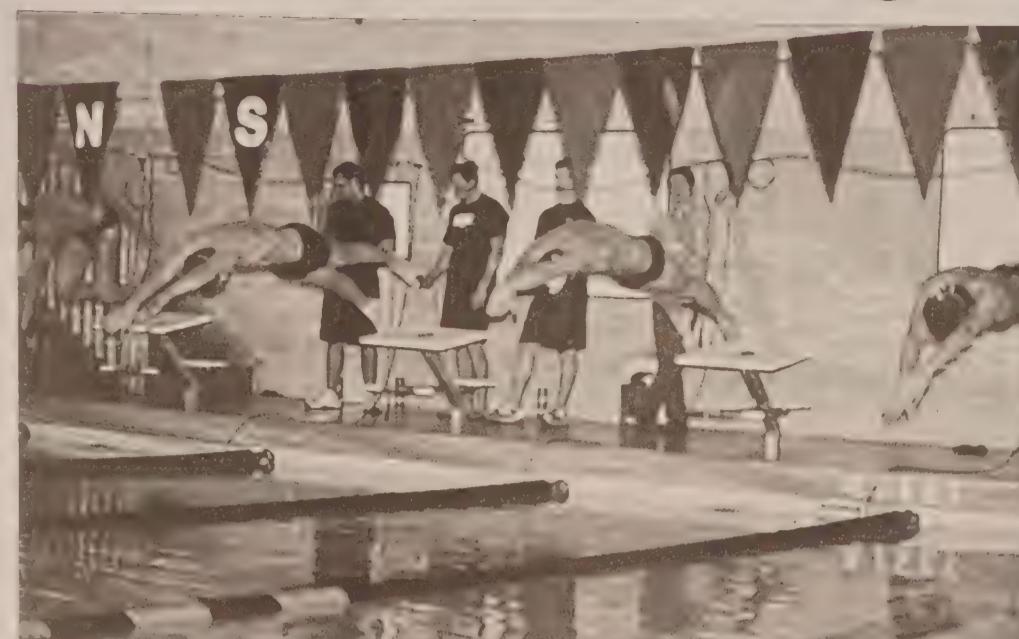
"For the team, it's really exciting with nationals coming up that everyone is swimming as fast as they are. All of us had practiced the day of the meet but we still managed to swim fast, so that was encouraging," said sophomore Jon Kleiman.

Another freshman, Brian Sneed, took home the 200 meter freestyle title with a time of 1:47.81.

Beyond the freestyle, the men's team earned impressive finishes in the backstroke and the breaststroke as well. Sophomore J.P. Balfour won the 100 meter backstroke with a time of 53.53. Fellow Blue Jay Sean Kim won the 200 meter backstroke in 1:59.81.

In the breaststroke, senior David Lofthus won the 100 meter in 1:01.42 while junior Oliver Buccione won the 200 meter in 1:58.81.

Freshmen were also the leaders in the women's victory over Mary Washington. Three freshmen—Stephanie Leaman, Abiona Redwood and Jessica Chang—each won two events to spur the Women's 136-117 victory. The women's team margin of victory



The Johns Hopkins Men's Swimming team begins a race against Mary Washington in the Athletic Center.

DENISE TERRY/NEWS-Letter

was larger than usual against Mary Washington, which is often a closely matched team with the Blue Jays.

Leaman won the 100 meter freestyle in 10:39.18 as well as the 500 meter freestyle in 5:18.70. Redwood captured both the 50 meter and 100 meter freestyle in 24.87 and 54.74, respectively. Finally, Jessica Chang won the 100 meter and 200 breaststroke in 2:27.69.

Two other freshmen won a single event each. Kristin Stepaniak emerged victorious in the 100 meter backstroke in a time of 1:02.96 and Katie Herbst won the 200 meter backstroke in a time of 2:15.78.

Not to be outdone, two sophomores also won their events. Diana Smirnova won the 200 meter freestyle in 2:00.53, while sophomore Betsy Maragakis won the 200 meter butterfly in a time of 2:16.43.

With the win, the men's team boosted their record to 5-5 while the

women moved one step closer to .500 with a 4-6 record.

A week earlier, the men's team went 1-1 in a Tri-meet at West Chester University.

The Blue Jays were at a disadvantage, however, because they do not have a diving team. Therefore, Hopkins had to forfeit all diving-related events. This allowed the West Chester team to take 32 points for diving.

Senior Scott Armstrong won the 400 meter individual medley as well as the 500 meter freestyle in times of 4:05.45 and 4:34.75, respectively.

Junior Scott Pitz won the 100 meter breaststroke in 59.31 and the 200 meter breaststroke in 2:11.01.

Freshman Matthew Chana won the 1650 meter freestyle with a time of 16:20.59.

The Blue Jays 800 meter freestyle relay team also won its race in a time of 6:59.98. The team is comprised of

senior Justin Brannock, junior Oliver Buccione, junior Kyle Robinson and Armstrong.

The Jays 400 meter freestyle relay team, comprised of senior David Lofthus, Armstrong, Brannock and Robinson secured their win in 3:09.06.

The women's team suffered two losses in the tri-meet but there were still bright spots among the disappointing loss.

Freshman Sida Liu won two events in the team's losing cause. Liu won the 100 meter backstroke in 1:00.48 as well as the 200 meter backstroke in 2:10.13. Jessica Chang, another freshman, won the 100 meter breaststroke in 1:06.32 and freshman Krisitin Stepaniak won the 200 meter breaststroke in 2:26.18.

The Jays will compete next against the University of Maryland Baltimore Campus when they battle the Retrievers at 4 p.m. on Friday.

Amos ties Blue Jay sprinting records

BY MELISSA O'BERG
THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-Letter

ginia Invitational in Morgantown, W. Va.

The men battled West Virginia, Penn State University and Hagerstown Community College and the women took on West Virginia University and Hagerstown Community College.

Amos finished fourth in the 60 meter dash and set a school record of 6.95, breaking the previous record of 7.13 which he set last season.

Amos is currently ranked third in the 60-meter dash nationally. In the 200 meter event, freshman Sean Morgan placed eighth with a time of 25.04, only .03 seconds behind Amos.

In the 1,500-meter run, senior John Onofrey earned an 11th place finish with a time of 4:09.80.

Junior Steve Chu clocked in at 16:10.59 in the 5,000-meter run, placing him fifth. Freshman Derrick Norgriff threw the shot put 40' 11.74" to garner 16th place out of the 37 shot putters.

The Jays have a strong distance medley relay team this year, and are well positioned to compete well at indoor conferences this year," commented freshman distance runner Gabe Tonkin.

For the women, newly named captain, junior Aline Bernard placed third in the 5,000-meter run with a time of 19:14.85.

Senior captain Nikki Gross

clocked a time of 2:31.68 in the 800-meter event, placing her 16th of 34. In the 1,500-meter run, sophomore Maureen Kimsey finished in 5:15.37, putting her at 14th of 29. Senior Jackie Evans finished 11th of 26 with her throw of 33' 10.25".

On Jan. 11, 2003, the men and women competed in the West Vir-

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On Jan. 11, 2003, the men and women competed in the West Vir-

Women's B-ball scores 103 points

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A12

sophomore forward Ashanna Randall tallied six points and 10 rebounds. In the game, Shepler also became the 24th player in Blue Jay history to score over 500 career points.

Senior center Kathy Darling led four players in double figures with a game-high 16 points, which lead Johns Hopkins to a 103-47 victory over Dickinson on Wednesday, Jan. 22.

JHU led 11-2 following a three pointer by junior Trista Snyder with just 3:48 gone in the first half. Dickinson responded with a 12-6 run to cut the margin to 17-14 as Tracee Mosch nailed a jumper midway through the half.

The Blue Jays answered by outscoring the Red Devils 36-7 over the final 10 minutes to take a 53-21 lead into halftime.

Hopkins began the second half with a 29-7 run and led 82-28 with 10:18 remaining in the game before cruising to its largest margin of victory this season.

A jumper by sophomore Aislyn Nelson put Hopkins over the 100-

point mark for only the second time in school history.

The Blue Jays shot 48 percent (35-for-72) from the field and committed a season-low seven turnovers.

Snyder finished with a season-high 12 points, while sophomores Alissa Burkholder and Ashanna Randall reached double figures with 11 and 10 points, respectively.

Burkholder tied her career-high with seven rebounds and added two steals.

Senior Ashley Shepler registered a season-high eight assists and scored four points. Dickinson shot just 29 percent (17-for-57) for the game and was out rebounded by a 51-34 margin.

Maureen Myers noted, "We're getting some really consistent contribution from a lot of players this year. Ashanna has been playing some great basketball and Ashley Shepler is always a steady force, with both points and assists."

The Blue Jays return to action Saturday as Hopkins travels to Collegeville, Pa., to take on Ursinus at 1:00 p.m.



Senior guard Brendan Kamm drives past his defender to the hole.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A12

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CALENDAR

SUNDAY

Mens Fencing vs. various schools All day
White Athletic Center



SPORTS

Blue Jays topple McDaniel, 73-58



The Men's Basketball team has yet to lose a home game this season. The team is currently ranked No. 18 in the Division III National rankings.

BY SEAN HEFFERNAN
THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-Letter

The Hopkins Men's Basketball team has been on a tear of late, with their current six-game winning streak giving them nine wins out of 11 games just since the end of last semester. The Blue Jays, who now boast an impressive 13-3 record, also moved into the Division III National Rankings, holding the No. 18 spot. Their 4-1 mark within the tough Centennial Conference is good enough for a tie for first in the West Division.

"Right now we are a confident team and hope to keep on winning, as all the remaining games are important Centennial Conference games. With eight games to go, we are at the point where we decide our own fate for the post season," commented senior co-captain Steve Adams.

Last week, Hopkins pulled out two impressive conference wins—defeat-

ing the McDaniel Green Terror 73-58 on Saturday, and the Dickinson Red Devils 80-68 last Wednesday.

At McDaniel College in Westminster, Maryland, junior guard Matt Righter led the team with 14 points and a career high nine rebounds. Senior center Mike Blaine hit six of seven attempted field goals while contributing 12 points and nine rebounds of his own as the balanced Blue Jay attack dropped the Green Terror to 4-12 overall and 2-4 in the conference.

While nine Blue Jays played at least 10 minutes, six managed to record eight points or more—a remarkable achievement showcasing the Blue Jay's team depth.

The game looked decided from the initial tip-off as Hopkins jumped out to a quick 32-14 lead. However, McDaniel went on a 12-0 run late in the period, eventually closing the Blue Jay first half only down 44-34. The

Blue Jays responded in the second half, stretching their lead and eventually winning by a comfortable fifteen-point margin.

Led by solid performances from seniors Steve Adams and Jay Kreider, the Blue Jays defeated the Dickinson College Red Devils 80-68, Jan. 22.

Adam scored 21 points and pulled down five rebounds, while Kreider posted 19 points, four rebounds, two assists and a steal. Righter contributed 16 points in 26 minutes. He converted four of nine three pointers.

Although they trailed 37-36 at the half, the Blue Jays came out strong in the second half. Kreider's three-pointer with 14 minutes remaining put Hopkins ahead 47-46. They would not relinquish the lead again, finishing strong for a solid victory.

Because of his stellar play during the week, guard Matt Righter was named to the Centennial Conference Honor Roll. Over two games, he

poured in 30 points, collected 10 rebounds, and made six of 15 three pointers.

Prior to last week's two conference wins, the Blue Jays earned national recognition, and a No. 22 ranking. Earlier during the winter break, they defeated Villa Julie College, 80-62 on the 18th of January, Conference foe Washington College on the 15th by a score of 82-69, nationally ranked No. 4 Catholic College 77-69 on the 11th, and Carnegie Mellon, 97-85 on the seventh. The Jays' victory over No. 4-ranked Catholic was the highest ranked team Hopkins has beaten in the history of the men's basketball program.

Adams was named to the Centennial Conference Honor Roll for his play against Washington College and Villa Julie. He was particularly good against Washington, leading the Jays with 25 points and 15 rebounds.

CONTINUED ON PAGE A11

Women's Basketball dominates F&M, 76-56



Freshman guard Jenn Trapp tries to maneuver around a Franklin & Marshall defender this Wednesday.

BY MARISSA BALDWIN
THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-Letter

While many Hopkins' students were enjoying their winter break, the Hopkins' Women's Basketball team was very busy, competing against a bevy of tough teams. Their new year started with a West Coast swing as they traveled to Monterey Bay, Calif. to compete in the Monterey Classic. While there, they suffered a tough loss to Cal State Monterey, 69-68 but then rebounded with a decisive, 87-

47 thrashing of Nichols. Starting on Jan. 9, they hosted Haverford and won easily, by a score of 91-41. They then played against No. 7 De Sales on Jan. 11, suffering another close loss, 67-66. They then won three in a row: 86-61 against Washington College, 82-36 against Bryn Mawr, and 67-65 against Delaware.

Junior Maureen Myers reflected on the team's season so far.

"We've lost five games by a combined 11 points (three one-point losses, a two-point loss, and a six-point

loss) which makes for some really tough losses. As a team, however, we've begun to learn from the tight games so we'll be able to come out on top in the postseason."

Wednesday night, the Blue Jays were decisive in their home victory over Franklin & Marshall as four players scored in double figures en route to a 76-56 win.

The Jays took jump ahead early, but then fell behind as the F&M Diplomats rallied to take the lead, 18-16. Hopkins came right back, going on a

20-6 run. The Jays never looked back from there and they went on to win by a 20 point margin.

Among the high scorers for the Jays was sophomore guard Ashley Felix who scored 13 points and senior center Kathy Darling who also scored 13. Sophomore guard Alissa Burkholder scored 11 points as did sophomore forward Ashanna Randall.

The win gave the Jays a 12-5 overall record and they improved to 6-1 in the Centennial Conference.

Before last night's win, the Lady Jays' two most recent games took place in the past week. Senior center Kathy Darling scored a game-high 26 points, but it was not enough as McDaniel defeated Johns Hopkins, 76-70 on Jan. 25. The Blue Jays lost for the first time in conference play to fall to 11-5 overall and 5-1 in the centennial.

The first half featured four ties and five lead changes before the Green Terror scored the final nine points to take a 43-34 advantage into halftime. Hopkins scored the first seven points of the second half and managed to tie the game 55-55 at the 9:11 mark on two free throws by junior guard Maureen Myers. Following four additional lead changes, the Green Terror took the lead for good on a jumper by Jen Piccolomini with 3:51 remaining. McDaniel made five-of-six free throws in the final 38 seconds to seal the win. Darling hit 11-of-15 shots from the field and grabbed a season-high 10 rebounds for her first double-double of the year. Myers scored 18 points and joined senior guard Ashley Shepler with a game-high five assists. Shepler added eight points, while

CONTINUED ON PAGE A11

Fencing excels in Evanston tourney

BY RON DEMETER

THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-Letter

While most of the country spent the past few weeks engulfed in the bitter cold, the men's fencing team caught fire at the Northwestern Invitational in Evanston, Ill. winning seven of its nine duals.

Hopkins' first opponent was Detroit, who the Jays easily defeated 24-3. The team followed with four more wins on the day against Wayne State, Michigan, Northwestern, and Cleveland State. The team concluded the first day of the competition with a perfect 5-0 record.

The second day of the tournament would prove to be more difficult for the Jays.

The Jays earned a 21-6 victory over Lawrence and a 19-8 victory over Michigan State. However, the Jays fell in their final two duals against North Carolina and Ohio State.

The Hopkins' foils were led by sophomore Brian Bishe who finished with a very impressive 21-2 record.

Senior Daniel Frank earned 14 wins and seven losses and junior Emanuel Strauss garnered 13 wins and 11 losses.

Junior Matt Boulabasis led the team in the epee with a 20-5 record. Sophomore John Majewski earned

At 39 years of age Buccaneer's coach Jon Gruden is the youngest coach to ever win a Superbowl. The previous record holder was the man announcing the game, John Madden.

DO YOU KNOW?

The strong showing in the tournament boosted the Men's Fencing Team's record to a stellar 13-3 record overall.

The Women's Fencing team fared well in the Northwestern Invitational finishing the meet with a 5-6 record.

The Lady Jays defeated Detroit 22-5 and Lawrence 23-4 on the first day of action. However, Hopkins lost the other four matches on the day.

The team fell to Wayne State 14-13, Michigan 14-13, Northwestern 19-8 and were crushed by Ohio State 25-2.

The following day the Jays stormed back winning three of the five duals on the day.

The team managed to earn victories over Cleveland State 23-4, Michigan State 15-12 and Fairleigh Dickinson 14-13. The team fell to North Carolina 18-9 and Temple 21-6.

Last weekend the Women's Fencing team hosted a competition in the White Athletic Center, defeating four of the five teams present. In their first match, the Lady Jays defeated Drew 17-10.

In their next match the women's fencing team dropped a dual to rival Haverford, 15-12. The Jays would win the next three duals in the competition defeating Virginia 19-8, Virginia 15-12 and James Madison 23-4.

Senior Allison Barker earned a perfect 14-0 finish over the weekend leading the sabre team to an impressive 33-12 record in the competition.

Junior Christina Giblin finished 11-1 to lead the foil team which finished with a 23-22 record. Giblin's score was the difference in what was a tough showing.

The Blue Jay epee's were led by junior Georgiana Lee who finished with a 10-1 record and Caroline Grey who earned a 12-3 record. The epées were a combined 30-15 in the competition.

At the conclusion of the tournament the Lady Jay's overall record stood at 9-7.

The men's team will compete next this Sunday at home taking on Virginia, Drew, New Jersey Tech, and William & Mary at noon in the White Recreation Center.

The Lady Jays will travel up to Hoboken, NJ on Sunday, Feb. 2 to face Stevens Tech and Temple University.

HOME	Detroit	23
VISITOR	Hopkins	3
HOME	Michigan State	22
VISITOR	Hopkins	19

the second best record on the team winning 19 and dropping seven.

Senior Dave Kotlyar earned 11 wins and 10 losses for the third best record for an epee.

Senior Yong Kwon finished 14-

9 for the best record for a sabre.

Freshman Jason Park went 12-9 and sophomore Bin Luo finished 3-1 for the second and third best scores respectively.



NATHAN BATES/NEWS-Letter
Fencing competes in a dual hosted in the White Athletic Center.

BY MARISSA BALDWIN
THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-Letter

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CONTINUED ON PAGE A11

The B Section

FEATURES, ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT AND MORE! • JANUARY 30, 2003



Pres. Brody's class makes uncommon sense

BY LINDSAY SAXE
THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-LETTER

"I've never looked at the long-term. I've always said, 'what are my options?' and of the two alternatives, which one makes me more excited or happier? You always have to assess the risks and rewards of a certain path."

While it may sound like an excerpt from Oprah where master-of-the-obvious psychologist, Dr. Phil, is giving another senseless middle-American the verbal smack-down, it is actually one of the key aphorisms President Brody discussed with a small group of undergrads during his Intersession course, *Uncommon Sense: A Practical Approach to Problem Solving for your Personal and Professional Life*.

Offered through the school of Engineering, Brody's *Uncommon Sense* was billed as, "a framework for understanding and sometimes solving practical, real-life problems." As the name of the class suggests, students are given worksheets with realistic problems that both young and old adults encounter throughout life.

For example, as part of their homework, students contemplated a common professional dilemma—whether or not to take a higher paying job for a rival company, while potentially sacrificing their job satisfaction. Another question dealt with job ethics, e.g. would they endorse financial figures inflated

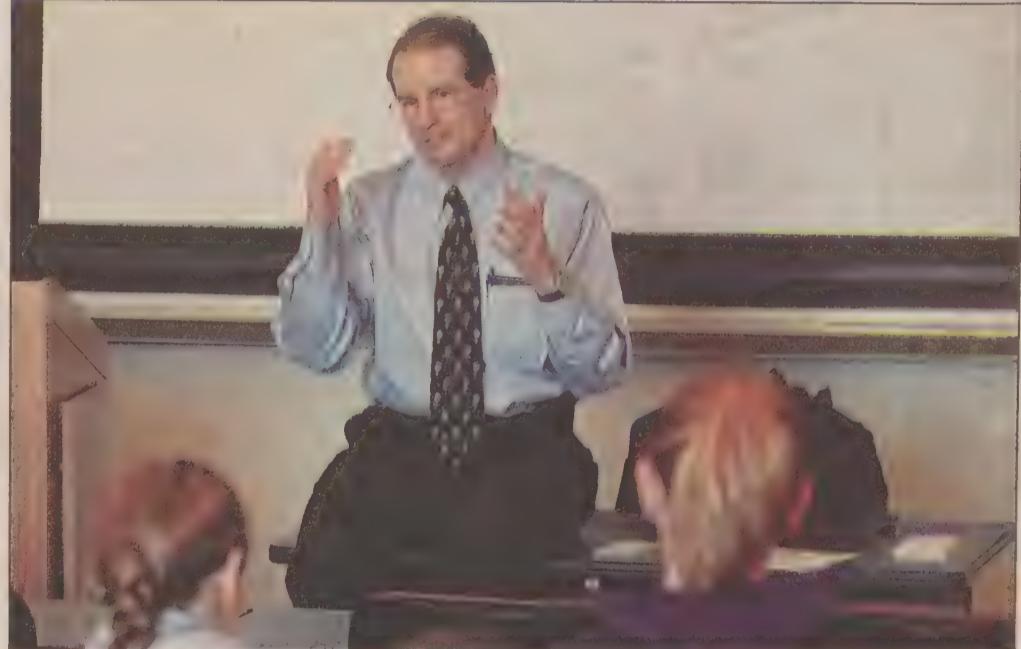
by the company's head honcho, or would they speak up about the discrepancy and risk losing their job?

Difficult questions, to which Brody conceded, "There is no right answer," but intuitive categories of better and worse. For the college student, the emerging professional, there is a wealth of these decisions that seem to multiply with each subsequent semester. And as Brody said, learning how to deal pragmatically with ethical, professional and personal dilemmas is a skill that all too many people never learn.

"Understanding how to get a job, or how to get into graduate/medical/law school requires some understanding of the common sense of marketing and selling yourself, two skills that are critically important in life," said Brody.

He used examples from recent headlines and his experiences with other professionals to demonstrate to students how some of the most successful people, as well as some of the least successful, have fared as a result of the decisions they have made. Topics such as the Enron corporate scandal, Martha Stewart and Michael Bloomberg's devout belief in employee loyalty were a few of the illustrations used to show students how a chosen path can play a major role in determining their eventual success or failure.

Brody's dictums such as "Don't trade money for job satisfaction; I



VADIM GRETCHOUCHKIN/NEWS-LETTER

guarantee you'll be unhappy," or "Once you lose your integrity, it's very hard to get it back" were supplemented by his personal anecdotes in order to try and impart some of his own wisdom-from-experience onto his 30-some odd students. And in general,

students found listening to Brody's personal experiences to be one of the most intriguing parts of the class. However, the idea for *Uncommon Sense* was not founded in desire to promote "instant acceptance" of the once up-and-coming professional's beliefs.

Brody was motivated to teach this type of reasoning/problem solving course for quite a few other reasons, one being that he felt as if he'd "learned a lot of things after college" that he wished "someone had helped me understand earlier in my life." He added that he believes there is also a general lack of common sense and straightforward problem solving ability prevalent in the world today, and that we as Americans are not taught how to pragmatically deal with complex, everyday issues that confront us. As he said, "We ascribe causality to events that are totally unconnected and then provoke a widespread scare."

In addition to the lack of common sense Brody sees, people have lost sight of the smaller things in life, the most often overlooked details that make people successful, that help build a repertoire with friends and acquaintances, and that differentiate those people who will be effective in their personal and professional lives from those who will not. And, as old-fashioned as good manners and sayings like "you're known by the company you keep" may seem to people our age, they are a good reminder that no matter how modern the world becomes, the most successful people are those who have the best reputations and who have made the best impressions on those people around them.

How to make that good first impression and how to make the right decisions is as simple as it is challenging, yet as Brody believes, "you can educate people about thinking critically about things and also developing a keen and curious sense of 'why things are the way they are.'"

No snow here: A warmer, Caribbean-style way to spend Intersession break



Sophomore Ben Deitchman leans over the railing of his hotel room in the Havana Libre during the annual Intersession trip to Cuba.

A & E

The Swedish are coming! The Swedish are coming! This week, an in-depth analysis of the hottest Swedish rockers. Plus, *The Wallflowers* return with a smash new album, and Roman Polanski tackles the Holocaust in his new film, *The Pianist*. • B6

Jonathan Groce takes on the new Jack Nicholson film, *About Schmidt*, while our reporter explores the world of *LOTR: The Two Towers*. Charles Donefer rants about the decline of Western Civilization as it relates to a cover of CSN&Y's "Carry On." • B7

Leonardo DiCaprio returns to the big screen with not one but two smash hits, Shania Twain lives it *Up!*, and *Confessions of a Dangerous Mind* hits the box office. • B8

CALENDAR

Minnie Mouse and the rest of the Disney gang are skating into town this week for Disney on Ice. • B10-11

QUIZ

Do your friends always make fun of your musical tastes? Take our lousy music quiz. • B12

Kaufman's *Adaptation* reverses the world behind the camera

BY JASON SHAHINFAR

THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-LETTER

The last time we saw Spike Jonze and Charlie Kaufman working together we got the brilliant *Being John Malkovich*. This crazy film duo has done it again with a movie that tackles human emotion over the course of our entire evolution. *Adaptation* is a must see for filmmakers, film lovers and filmgoers.

The movie follows screenwriter Charlie Kaufman (Nicolas Cage in his best performance in years) as he tries to adapt a book, *The Orchid Thief*, by Susan Orlean. Kaufman deals with his hatred for the Hollywood style, his inability to adapt the book or understand the author and his twin brother who is living with him and trying to write a crappy suspense thriller.

Throughout the first two thirds we see Kaufman on the set of *Being John Malkovich* as he is asked to leave by some low level PA, we hear everything that goes through his head and his complete lack of self-confidence, we see him talking to executives who think he's brilliant. Then the movie really starts going, and believe me, it's not worth ruining for you.

If you've seen other Kaufman scripts like *Being John Malkovich* or *Human Nature*, then you will recognize many of the themes in *Adaptation*.

He always tends to tackle issues of being human and the scientific proof for things like consciousness, evolution or human nature, and then turn them on their head by adding the X-factor of emotion.

The film becomes truly amazing when you know that it was just an exercise to get rid of Kaufman's writer's block. He was getting aggravated with the fact that he could not adapt the book, so he wrote this instead. He never thought it would get made.

In *Adaptation*, Kaufman covers the entire scope of evolution on Earth. We see the first fish walk on land, we see the ice age come and go in an instant, and then we see our characters trying to live their everyday lives through their own personal philosophies.

It's almost impossible for me to go into everything that this movie entails thematically in this article, but I can assure you second and third viewings are recommended.

As far as the filmmaking aspect of the movie goes, I can only hope that this film will be recognized by the usual awards. Jonze did an amazing job on his previous work and was snubbed. He crafts this piece so well that the audience is taken for a ride and doesn't even question what is going on. I didn't even feel the shift towards the end. When I thought back on the film after it was over I realized



COURTESY OF COLUMBIA PICTURES

Charlie Kaufman (Nicolas Cage) tries to adapt a Susan Orlean novel for a screenplay in *Adaptation*.

SORORITY FOCUS

Highlights of the Panhellenic sororities

ALPHA PHI

Active Sisters: 65
Founded at Hopkins: 1981
Colors: silver and bordeaux
Flower: the Lilly of the Valley
Mascot/Symbol: the Teddy Bear, the Ivy Leaf
Charity: Alpha Phi Cardiac Care Foundation

include help at Margaret Brent Elementary School, help with urban arts projects at other local schools, and making sandwiches for the homeless at the IFC. A Spring Raffle helps to raise money for Cardiac Care.

Philanthropy Events: King of Hearts, which annually raises \$2000 for the Alpha Phi Cardiac Care Foundation. Local community service projects

Social Events: Winter Formal, Bordeaux Ball, Poison Ivy, Date Parties, Crush Parties, water fights with fraternities, BBQs, Greek Week

KAPPA KAPPA GAMMA

Active Sisters: 30
Founded at Hopkins: Oct. 23, 1999
Colors: light blue and dark blue
Flower: the Fleur de Lys
Mascot/Symbol: the Owl, the Key
Charity: Women and children. Johns Hopkins Children's Hospital, the House of Ruth, and the Children's Miracle Network.

Philanthropy Events: A waffle house once a semester on campus, where sisters make all-you-can-eat breakfast for dinner for students. Spring Fair participation includes hosting a booth or helping with rides.

Social events: New Member Party, Date Parties, and the end-of-the-year formal, the Sapphire Ball.

PHI MU

Active Sisters: 70
Founded at Hopkins: Oct. 16, 1982
Colors: rose and white
Flower: the Rose Carnation
Mascot/Symbol: the Lion, the Quatrafoil
Charity: Children's Miracle Network (CMN)

Philanthropy Events: Fundraising for CMN, such as the annual Pastathon and Bake Sales. Ribbon-sales to commemorate 9/11 and raise funds for the American Red Cross. Annual Pumpkin Sale,

making crafts and Halloween cards for children at Johns Hopkins Children Hospital. Within the chapter, sisters hold clothing drives for local women's shelters.

Social Events: Black and White Formal, multiple Date Parties, Double Date Parties, Destination Unknowns, and Crush Parties, plus many smaller gatherings for sisters only held at the Phi Mu House: bagel brunches, ice cream sundae parties, and movie nights.

KAPPA ALPHA THETA

Active Sisters: 60
Founded at Hopkins: 1997
Colors: black and gold
Flower: the Pansy
Mascot/Symbol: the Kite
Charity: Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA)

ing booth at Spring Fair that raises money for the national philanthropy. This semester, they will be raising money for CASA in the 1st annual "Mi Casa es su Casa" night.

Social Events: Cowboys-Indians Party, gathering at the Baltimore Zoo, Halloween Parties, New Member Social, Winter Holiday Formal, Sister Black and White Event, Crush Parties, and Double Date Parties.

Philanthropy Events: Sponsor a local girl scout troops and plan activities each week to do with the girls. Also participate with soup kitchens, Race for the Cure, Strides Against Cancer and host a pie-throw-

The Focus Top Ten: Joining a sorority

The N-L presents some great reasons to consider becoming part of a sisterhood

10. An academic network of girls to study with, get advice from, and sit with in those classes where you need just a bit of help staying awake

9. Mixers with fraternities

8. Sisterhood events like movies, dinners, intramural sports

7. Naked Pillow Fights

6. Opportunities for leadership positions and creative projects

5. Weekly meetings to catch up with your friends and get a break from the JHU grind

4. Having a "big" and "little" sister who become a family away from home

3. Free T-Shirts

2. Formals, date parties, crush parties, and pretty much any other social event where you get to invite dates and check out a new Baltimore hot spot

1. Did we mention Naked Pillow Fights?

Now here are some reasons to avoid the tempting lure of being a 'greek life girl'

10. Most people don't have to pay annual dues to hang out with their friends

9. You don't have to pretend to like frat boys

8. You don't get asked about the naked pillow fights, lesbian experimentation and other such nonsense

7. Your wardrobe can include more than two colors

6. A big oaktag sign on your door is a fire hazard

5. "Ohmigod" is not a real word

4. You don't have to pretend to enjoy helping those less fortunate than yourself

3. [Insert slut joke here]

2. There's only so much ice water you can drink

1. You're a guy and *Sorority Boys* is just a movie

Why is Phi Mu the only sorority with its own house?

BY JEFF KATZENSTEIN
THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-Letter

It is said around the Hopkins campus that long ago, one of the most inane laws ever to be made was made into law in Maryland. This "law" takes blame for continuing to affect sororities here at Hopkins in quite possibly the worst way: If you haven't noticed, or just haven't left your dorm yet, there aren't any sororities at Hopkins that have their own housing.

Hopkins lore still credits this to the strange "brothel law:" that in Maryland, more than eight women in a house is illegal because such a combination could only mean one thing, that it's a whorehouse (or in more modern terms, a "house of ill-repute").

Much like the Maryland laws which still stipulate that one is forbidden to grow thistles in his or her front lawn or to take a lion to the movies, the "brothel law" has stayed in use to this day.

However, about ten years ago, one Hopkins sorority managed to escape the long arm of cruelty and sexism that is Maryland law. The Rogers House, at 3506 Greenway, which had long been an overflow house for fresh-

men (much like the Hopkins Inn today), had become underused. The administration decided that it wanted to do something else with the house, and since, as senior Phi Mu President Casey Weinberg explained, "We [Phi Mu] were the strongest sorority on campus," it was given to the sisters of Phi Mu.

Yet, this wasn't any regular sorority house. The house, to this day, remains University-owned and operated. Sisters pay residential housing fees to Hopkins. There is also a Resident Advisor, who usually happens to be a Phi Mu sister.

With four floors, each with a lounge, kitchen and bathroom, and 17 sisters living in the house, you could say the sisters have it pretty good. The Housing Department even takes care of cleaning all the common areas, including bathrooms.

As with any housing at Hopkins, some sisters pointed out negative aspects. For one, they can't throw any

wild parties. Other problems included the fact that the house is not outfitted with ResNet, forcing sisters to obtain their own DSL internet service. Also, as sophomore Cate Murphy explained, "since we're not really part of regular housing, the Housing Department doesn't fix stuff as much." Yet, despite not being able to have parties, the sisters can still hold meetings in the house, which they agreed was a big plus.

So how does this house compare with the various fraternity houses around campus? As one might suspect, the Rogers House is much cleaner

and doesn't smell like rank beer. As Weinberg explained, "We don't have raging parties, so it's quieter here." Murphy added that it's nicer not to have parties because the sisters don't have to clean up. "Life is crazier at frats, but I'd go for clean over crazy," Weinberg said.

"Even though it's University-owned, you have a lot more freedom," Murphy commented. "You feel more like you're living on your own."

Perhaps the best part of the Rogers House, is that, as sophomore Kate Mandel pointed out, "We don't have to have icky, dirty boys here".

Luckily, this icky, dirty boy was able to enter the Rogers House to take a quick look around. Various banners and message boards decorate the spacious foyer, and the layout included suites and single rooms. Of course, the doors and walls were decorated with girly stuff, and as soon as I glanced at the wall decorated with nothing but magazine clippings of male celebrities, Weinberg exclaimed happily, "Welcome to our sorority house."

Although it may seem like this would be a huge draw for rushes, all of the sisters interviewed agreed that the fact the Phi Mu has a house was not at all a factor in their decision to rush and pledge the sorority.

As for the "brothel law," we at the News-Letter were unable to find any such law through an internet search of the Annotated Code of Maryland. "I think it's an old wise-tale," Weinberg commented. "At University of Maryland, there are huge sorority houses."

This begged the question: if there really is no law, why haven't any other sororities taken steps to obtain hous-

ing?



It may be an official Hopkins dorm, but Phi Mu has left its mark on Rogers House.

ters hate to be at all associated with the whiny brats on the show.

Unlike most fraternity houses, most Hopkins students probably won't get to enter the Rogers House. Some don't even know it exists. And

just when you thought the naked pillow-fight joke wouldn't be used again, I'd like to point out that the house is the last great place at Hopkins where this sacred event occurs.

OTHER DUMB MARYLAND LAWS

- 1.) It is illegal to throw bales of hay from a second-story window within the city limits.
- 2.) You can not have an antenna exposed outside of your house yet you can have a 25' satellite dish.
- 3.) Oral sex can not be given or received anywhere.
- 4.) Thistles may not grow in one's yard.
- 5.) It is illegal to take a lion to the movies.
- 6.) An Ocean City law from the early 1900s prohibits men from going topless on the Boardwalk.
- 7.) It is a violation of Baltimore City code to sell chicks or ducklings to a minor within one week of the Easter holiday.
- 8.) Clotheslines are banned, yet clothes may be draped over a fence.
- 9.) It is a violation to be in a public park with a sleeveless shirt (\$10 fine).
- 10.) Though one may spit on a city roadway, spitting on city sidewalks is prohibited.

compiled by Jeff Katzenstein from <http://www.dumblaws.com>



The Phi Mu house looks surprisingly like any other dorm on campus.

CHARLES DONEFER / NEWS-Letter

FEATURES

Baltimore City stands at crossroads



LIZ STEINBERG/NEWS-LETTER

Although the Believe campaign created successful mentoring programs, violent crime may rise in the new year.

BY MAANY PEYVAN
THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-Letter

The final Baltimore Believe commercial aired just a few weeks after the first one. This time, the sun was out.

"Since 1999, Baltimore has had the sharpest drop in violent crime of any major American city," a narrator said. "The average home sale price is up 30 percent. Drug-related emergency room admissions are down. And for the first time in 30 years, Baltimore's first graders are scoring above the national average in reading and math. We've turned the corner. But until we as a community come together against drugs, we could just as easily slip back."

That community stand has recently come under fire, and Baltimore is now a city at a crossroads. Daunting statistics jeopardize many of the gains the Mayor's office has made in the past three years, and Baltimore must now reassess whether zero tolerance can affect maximum change.

"We clearly have problems that other cities don't," Baltimore's former police chief, Ed Norris, told *The Sun* in November. "Especially since the Dawson tragedy, the sacrifice of that family (whose seven members were killed in an arson attack), all those little kids, there's been a real awakening. We're facing the biggest chal-

lenges of any jurisdiction in the country. And that clearly requires that we take a totally new approach."

Since Norris made that statement, his new approach includes vacating his post as commissioner in favor of becoming Maryland State Police Superintendent.

"There were a lot of council members who cast tough votes to confirm and then reconfirm Norris, and they understandably feel like we got yahoo'd by this out-of-towner," Mayor Martin O'Malley told *The Sun* last week. "Define yahoo'd as 'to be fleeced and taken advantage of.'" What once seemed a strong bond between O'Malley and Norris is now frayed, even as Norris pushes for an increase in state police presence in Baltimore.

O'Malley has chosen former police commander Kevin P. Clark to succeed Norris as police commissioner. Like Norris, Clark is from New York, with a history of fighting drug trafficking. Like Norris, Clark also faces a city ravaged by drugs and violence, with killings occurring at an alarming pace. But unlike Norris, Clark is said to have a street cop's mentality, with an understanding for dealing with drug-controlled neighborhoods.

"Turf-based policing," Clark said at city hall last Friday. "One sergeant, six detectives, two undercover police for an area, gathering intelligence, and they're held accountable for what they gather. It's the same [dealers] out there every day. How cold is it out there today? Doesn't matter, they're

wearing three coats, but they keep buying. You make 'em disappear. Because they're the ones who are doing stickups, who are beating people. These guys are responsible for everything. And we know who they are."

But Clark's optimism may be shaken by the recent findings which suggest Baltimore's zero tolerance policy was administered by a police department characterized as ill-equipped, inexperienced and overwhelmed. Over the past three years,

it is a challenge which reemerges in a new year, with new command, and new criticism, but with the constant goal to save a city.

LIZ STEINBERG/NEWS-LETTER
Although arrests have cut violent crime, a lack of meaningful convictions threatens to undo the city's most recent gains.

Winter fashion will keep you warm and sexy

**BY KIM PHELAN
AND KARINA SCHUMACHER-VILLASANTE**
THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-Letter

While the weather outside is still frightful, you can make sure your outfit remains delightful. This year has been one of the coldest winters Baltimore has ever experienced and, unfortunately, we have to go through it too, which means a lot of winter clothing. Up front, there is nothing sexy about hat-head. While absolutely critical in the winter months, warm clothing can often border on the downright ugly. It is a thin line between warm-and-cozy and the Stay Puff Marshmallow Man. So how does one stay fashionable in the biting cold of Baltimore?

In these tempestuous winter months, clothing must correspond to the weather conditions. While on television Christina Aguilera gets dirty in next to nothing, we at Hopkins know too much about the adverse effects of the cold and the chemical composition of dirt to want to be associated with it. So how, one might ask, can the typical Hopkins fashionista be quite so stylish without baring it all à la Christina?

While we are not calling Christina "under-dressed" or "amazingly skanky," perhaps it would be wise to give in to more practical winter fashions: warm sweaters, comfy hats and mittens. Handmade mittens, hats and scarves have become a growing trend on campus as knitting and crocheting becomes more and more popular among Blue Jays.

Homemade scarves are coming into fashion, and knitting is fun, which makes the scarf that much more valuable than a Gap scarf made by a child

in a third world country," said sophomore Mira Cho.

Also hot in cold weather fashion are long coats. In a plethora of colors, coats ranging from mid-thigh to ankle-length are seen on the Homewood campus with every outfit from stilettos to sneakers. Another fashion staple here at Homewood is the tote bag. Inspired by the original L.L. Bean boat tote, they are popularly carried at Johnny Hop. Now that you have your staples, let's see if we can help you put them all together in a fashion savvy way without making you blend into the crowd.

It doesn't matter what mood you're in, it is always possible to look good, even if you think it's a lost cause. Let's pretend you did not get more than two hours of sleep one night and you have a 9 a.m. class in the morning. You only want to put on some sweats and a tee-shirt with a sweat shirt and maybe a fleece. Unfortunately, you cannot just throw on your flip-flops or your Birkenstocks because it's too cold, so you have to put on your sneakers. Here comes your first choice. Do you, a) wear your cross-trainers, or b) wear your funky sneakers that are not meant to be used at a gym? Clearly, the answer is b. Go for your really hip new sneakers that slip on and sport different shades of the same color (we know you know what we're talking about).

Here comes your next decision: your shirt. If you care, as you should, then you can pick a shirt that matches the color of your sweats and that is the same color as your shoes. You can then top it off with a bag of the same color. If you're a hair-splitting person, you can even match it with the color theme. If you don't like the whole tee-

shirt and sweatshirt, then go for the matching velour hoodie-and-pants suit — these muppet-preppy suits are totally in style these days and can be found at Urban Outfitters. Don't get rid of the shoes, they'll always look good.

You don't have to be tired and mopy to look stylish around the Homewood campus. Let's pretend like you actually have time to take a shower in the morning before you head to class. First things first: don't forget to moisturize — the winter makes your skin really dry and unattractive. Secondly, make sure that whatever you wear is not showing a panty line — as much as you may think people don't see them, they do, so wear a thong or don't wear anything at all. Third, check weather bug and look out the window before you get dressed. You should have an idea of what sort of mood you are in and how you would like to reflect that in your outfit. If you're in a good mood go for your favorite colors because they'll help bring out your inner spirit, unless of course your favorite colors are particularly unflattering, like neon colors. Also,

NINA LOPATINA/NEWS-LETTER
Knitted caps and scarves are a hit with students at Hopkins as well as their grandmothers.

the key to matching is not wearing the same color on your top half and your bottom half — you don't want to look like a monochrome. Finally, you don't have to suffocate to look good. It's ok if you show some skin every once in a while, but make it purposeful and not because your shirt is two sizes too small.

As long as you own the fashion staples for Hopkins, and you know how to mix and match your clothing well and how to wear it, you'll be sure to turn more heads on the Homewood campus.

Exams and stress may bring about insomnia



NINA LOPATINA/NEWS-LETTER

Morning tiredness, headaches and irritability may be signs of insomnia.

BY GINA CALLAHAN
THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-Letter

In January, the mayor's office recently received a letter from lawyer Johnnie Cochran, saying that a lawsuit might be filed on behalf of relatives of the Dawson family. The lawsuit intends to focus on the "Believe" campaign, which encourages residents to report drug dealers to the police. Janell Byrd-Chichester, an attorney with Cochran's firm, told local media that the city owes relatives "substantial redress" for their loss, and that "It's reckless to invite people to step up to a dangerous situation ... and then fail to provide protection."

O'Malley urged that the firms attack on the Believe campaign could not undermine its message. "The Dawson tragedy actually inspired a lot of participation in the Believe campaign," O'Malley recently told *The Sun*. "It inspired all of us more. It really drove home the urgency of our challenge."

It is a challenge which reemerges in a new year, with new command, and new criticism, but with the constant goal to save a city.

She's suffered through six hours of class today. Hit the AC and the library and now all she wants is to crash, retire and have Mr. Skull and Mrs. Pillow unite in a blissful union for eight hours or so. But alas, no. This rundown college student has insomnia, a condition that leaves her sleepless and expectably groggy and irritable during the daylight hours.

But this little pre-med from New Jersey has never experienced sleeping problems before. Back home in Mommy and Daddy's dwelling all she needed was an unmade bed to serve as an invitation to be out, as they say, like a light. What then could be causing this newfound nighttime tossing and turning? Well, several causes could be to blame.

Factors responsible for insomnia include stress or anxiety, depression, chronic disorders, certain medications, poor eating habits, consumption of caffeine nicotine, alcohol and lack of, or poorly timed, exercise. Of these, several are commonly witnessed among college students. With hectic routines and packed schedules, stress and anxiety can plague students who are at the same time learning to live away from home.

Being away at school can also encourage less than ideal food consumption. Neglecting breakfast, eating too late at night, and making poor food selections leaves a student's body in less than perfect condition.

In addition, caffeine and alcohol are among a college student's favorite substances, with nicotine being enjoyed by a significant portion of the population. Caffeine and nicotine are stimulants and alcohol can be disruptive to sleeping patterns. Lastly, walking to and from class may not be enough physical activity. Regular exercise routines have been found to improve sleep.

In addition to the obvious symptoms, difficulty getting and staying asleep, waking up tired, and daytime sleepiness, insomnia may also be characterized by morning headaches, difficulty concentrating, irritability and bloodshot eyes. Any morning lecture course likely has a sprinkling of students experiencing such symptoms.

Ester Hwang is one student who

has difficulty sleeping in her McCoy double. She admits to previous sleeping issues, but feels that college at Hopkins has compounded her problem.

"Hopkins is to blame for my insomnia," she said. "It's the workload and the stress." The freshman goes two to three days without sleeping at times and has tried several mechanisms to combat the disorder. "Herbal remedies, over-the-counter sleeping pills, limiting my caffeine intake, exercising — you name it, I've tried it," she said.

The staff of JHU's Health and Wellness Center sees quite a few students for sleeping problems. Their first step, according to Doctor Alain Joffe, is to assess what "trouble sleeping" means to an individual patient.

For some of your fellow classmates, insomnia is a function of depression and others the chemical imbalance caused by too much caffeine. Some Hopkins students also toss and turn at night because they may be exercising too late at night, not giving their body ample time to wind down before bed, and many lose sleep because of exam-related stresses.

"Around midterm and exam time we see a lot of students who have to cram a lot of work into a short time and sleep gets sacrificed," Joffe said.

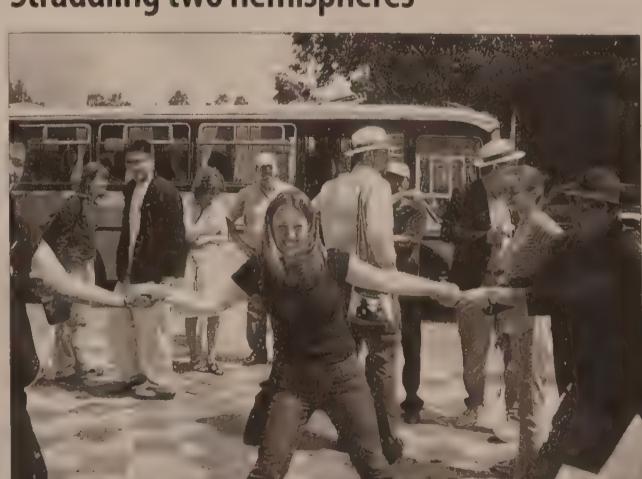
Though most students will experience trouble sleeping due to anxiety, occasionally, if insomnia extends to a week, shows no signs of improvement, and interferes with daily life, Joffe suggests seeking help or taking some combatant measures. He first suggests that students avoid jumping right from studying to sleeping.

"The mind needs time to decompress," Joffe said. "Try to stop studying an hour before you try to fall asleep." In addition, for some a warm shower, a massage, distracting reading or yoga could initiate better sleep. Only as a last resort are prescription sleep aids are offered to students who visit the Health and Wellness Center.

"We do [prescribe medications for sleep] rarely," Joffe said, "and only when a student is in a vicious cycle and has tried a number of other things."

More information about insomnia and other sleeping disorders can be found at <http://www.sleepfoundation.org> or <http://sleepdisorders.com>.

Straddling two hemispheres

PHOTO BY JANET CHANG, COURTESY OF [HTTP://MONSTER.PSY.JHU.EDU/2003/](http://MONSTER.PSY.JHU.EDU/2003/)
Students participating in the Intersession Ecuador/Galapagos trip stretch Elizabeth Owen across the equator.

FEATURES

New Whiting dean search underway

BY FRANCESCA HANSEN
THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-LETTER

With high standards and even higher hopes, a select committee of 15 faculty members and students are on a quest to find a new leader for the Whiting School of Engineering to fill the vacancy that will be left by current Dean Ilene Busch Vishniac.

"Johns Hopkins as a whole is learning for discovery and we have focused on ways of improving education by making sure they take full advantage of opportunities for undergraduate research. There is a strong sense of education, research and service," he said.

While choosing educational programs that facilitate faculty-student relations is an integral part of the position the dean carries an essential obligation for fund-raising. Not merely a financial figure-head, raising revenue for a school is an essential part of any deanship, said Knapp.

"We all have goals to bring new resources and to expand programs and give financial aid to further financial to further open education possibilities."

How exactly does the committee find that special someone to fulfill all of these requirements? After five months of interviews by the selecting committee, the panel has met with a number of the over 100 nominations submitted. Based on "mutual interest," the process is now progressing to a second stage of selection in the following weeks, subjecting candidates to a more open set of interviews by members not on the selecting committee. At the end of the grueling process, a new dean is expected to be chosen by July 1, 2003.

The journey on the search for a dean is well underway, with "a strong pool of applicants." Knapp underscores the significance of the selection process for everyone involved, saying it is proving to be "a learning experience" for himself and the committee.

"We're open to learn from people from these applicants from around the country." Whether he or she comes from within Hopkins or from another hotbed of talent, the school eagerly awaits the 2003-2004 school year as a showcase for this new star to take the Whiting School of Engineering to even greater heights.

Although The Whiting School and Krieger School of Arts and Sciences work independently, their symbiotic relationship offers a challenge to the dean to strike a balance between independence and the inter-disciplinary research nurtured at Hopkins.

The Whiting and Krieger schools indeed must maintain more fluidity than the students mingling between the Upper and Lower Quads, says Krieger School professor Adam Falk.

"We're looking for someone with intellectual vision we can partner with, a candidate that can cohere with what we're doing with interdisciplinary work," he said.

Programs that involve coordina-

tion between the two schools include Nanotechnology, Public Health, Biomedical engineering and Neuroscience, all ranking among the best in the country. The new dean of engineering carries the additional weight of continuing the importance of Hopkins as a research institution, asserted Knapp.

"Bush-Vishniac is stepping down at the end of the academic year after five years of service, returning to her role as professor in the Department of Mechanical Engineering and ascending to the presidency of the Acoustical Society of America. Her decision leaves vacant arguably one of the most prestigious and desirable academic posts in the nation, open to the most distinguished figures in engineering.

Such an enticing offer has drawn nominees and interested applicants from around the nation, all hoping for a shot at becoming the next Whiting dean.

"One reason people are attracted is the dean does have the freedom to help determine the future of these schools, making the position both attractive and fun," says Provost Steven Knapp.

Knapp is chairing the committee to find a dean for Hopkins, a position unlike those held at most other first tier universities.

"[The Hopkins system of schools] is very decentralized and the deans are very important leaders, working closely with the faculty. What sets us apart is the dean carries more responsibility and autonomy to determine the future of the school."

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Programs that involve coordina-

Race-based admissions to be reviewed

Supreme Court to decide whether U. Michigan's admissions policy is unconstitutional

BY JESSIE GILLIGAN
THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-LETTER

Long after the abolishment of slavery in 1865 and the civil rights act in 1964, American society continues to deal with the issue of racism. The question today revolves around the necessity of affirmative action as a tool to maintain diverse student bodies and give minority students an extra boost to gain admission.

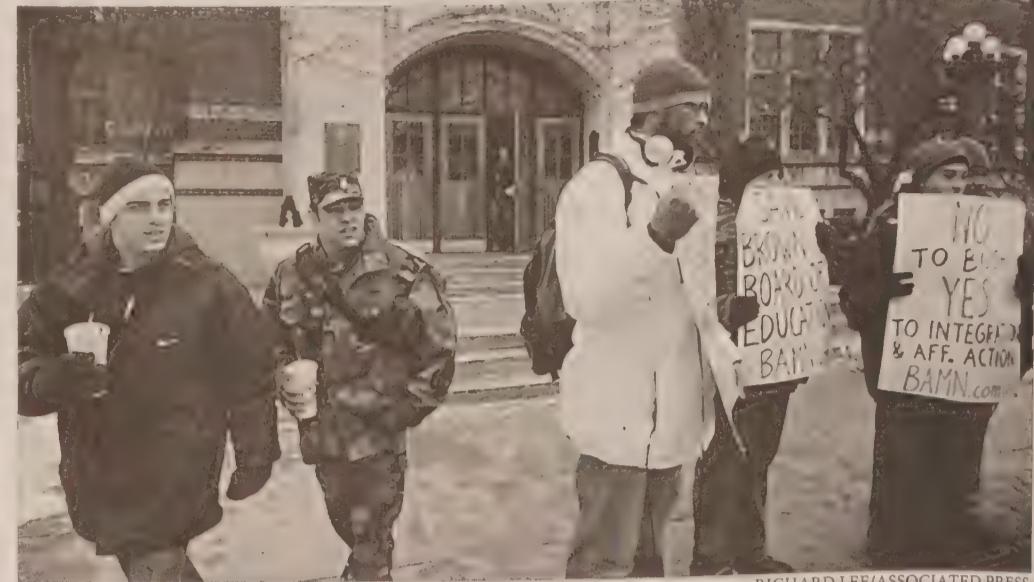
The topic of affirmative action has become a contentious issue in colleges all over the nation. With word that a lawsuit charging that the University of Michigan's use of affirmative action is unconstitutional is heading to the Supreme Court, all sides are gearing up for a decision that could change the face of higher education.

The two cases in question involved separate white applicants to both the undergraduate college and law school of Michigan who claim they were denied admission in favor of minority students who receive bonus points simply due to their race.

Though Johns Hopkins University has yet to make an official statement, President William Brody wrote in an e-mail to the News-Letter that "We are committed to recruiting a diverse student body, based upon a number of considerations. We do not have a quota system and are hopeful that we will be able to continue our present admissions policies."

The supreme court case involves the University of Michigan's application "points" process which on a scale of 150 gives 20 bonus points to Black, Hispanic or American Indian applicants, simply due to their race. Extra points are given based upon athletic achievements, geographic origins and socioeconomic positions, in addition to academic grades, recommendations and essays. On that same note, a perfect score on the SAT is worth 12 points.

On Jan. 24, President George Bush issued a statement coming out against Affirmative Action, and asking the Supreme Court to eliminate race-based admissions policies. The statement has created a small rift within



RICHARD LEE/ASSOCIATED PRESS

President Bush's cabinet. Condoleezza Rice, the National Security Advisor, and Secretary of State Colin L. Powell, the two highest-ranked African-Americans in the Bush administration have taken different stands on the issue.

Rice, though in support of Bush's conclusion that Michigan's methods were unconstitutional, still believes that race should be considered in the selection process. On the opposite end of the same spectrum, Powell is in full support of Michigan's policies and a strong advocate of affirmative action.

President Bush has suggested other ways to maintain diverse student bodies, as in guaranteeing admission to students who finish in the top 10 percent of their high school class, as is practiced in Texas. But it is still unclear whether that method actually improves minority admissions. In essence, he has left the battle of Constitution versus diversity to the Supreme Court.

Dean of Enrollment and Academic Services William Conley said Hopkins' undergraduate admissions remains committed to selecting a diverse student body.

"I will leave it to the courts to determine the constitutionality of the University of Michigan admission

practices. But I do believe strongly that maintaining a diverse student body is essential to providing the highest quality of education," he said.

Here at Johns Hopkins, opinions among students are as varied as they are in the nation's capital. Freshman Allie Brown believes that affirmative action is "a good idea, but is not working right for the people it was intended to help" and that "underprivileged minorities are being overshadowed by their wealthier counterparts."

Another freshman, Al Peña claims that the affirmative action process is "too extreme right now" calling the system "unfair" to those students who are better qualified for acceptance but who do not fall into specified racial categories.

Higher up in the ranks Ray Gillian, Assistant Provost and Director of Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action is in full support of affirmative action citing it as an "effective way of increasing diversity in a student body."

Gillian remains "optimistic that we'll continue to be able to use race in the admissions process, consistent with the Bakke decision." The 1978 case *Regents of the University of California vs. Bakke* decision by the Supreme Court approves the use

of race consideration as admissible for the sake of diversity while at the same time calling numerical quotas illegal.

In a *New York Times* article printed Jan. 19, 2003, Harvard law professor Laurence H. Tribe made clear that "the Constitution prohibits deliberate racial discrimination, even if it is indirect" and went on to state, "if one tries to do it under the table, that has all the vices and none of the virtues of a candid acknowledgment that in our society race still matters."

It is clear that across the nation and within positions of rank and student bodies that views on affirmative action are divergent from person to person.

In the end — if there ever is an end — the beliefs of Rice in support of applied race-neutral diversity and the opposing full support of affirmative action held by Powell, as well as the opinions of students, parents and faculty nationwide will have little say in the final verdict. Bush, hoping to remain loyal to maintaining student-body diversity as well as to solidifying, in his eyes, a constitutional admissions plan, has left the decision to the Supreme Court, a decision that will no doubt affect the future of America.

Winter tips to help enjoy and survive the cold

BY MAANY PEYVAN
THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-LETTER

Try the Ibex polo made of lightweight merino wool. It's naturally antimicrobial, so your sweat evaporates without smelling like, I don't know, sheep. (www.ibexwear.com)

2. Grow a mullet. Longer hair will keep you warmer. I entered a pact not to cut my hair until the end of the school year with some friends. Sure, we look like disheveled Zionists, but we're warm.

3. Get a hat. Want warm feet? It starts up top. A warm hat stops your body from losing heat and conveniently hides mullets.

4. Wash your damn hands! Drop those antibiotics. They won't help your cold or flu anyway. The best method is to wash your hands often, and get plenty of rest.

5. Drink...something. Liquids are very important to ameliorating the symptoms of colds and flu. Staying hydrated is especially important during dry winter months. Did I mention rush starts up this week?

6. Another reason to love sheep.

Try the Ibex polo made of lightweight merino wool. It's naturally antimicrobial, so your sweat evaporates without smelling like, I don't know, sheep. (www.ibexwear.com)

7. Be the 10 Man Dip. Many layers. Warm air gets trapped between clothing and can help you fight the cold.

8. Release your inner gigolo. Silk is one of the least breathable fabrics known to man. Outside of a neoprene suit, silk thermals will help stave off frostbite.

9. Avoid Terrace. Fatty and starchy foods take longer to digest and drain away blood from extremities.

10. Be Hot at Hopkins. No better way to warm up than to buddy up.



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Like with a Features editor. (hotathopkins@jhunewsletter.com)

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10 Ways to Survive it
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Sigma Alpha Mu
delta epsilon chapter



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2	3	4 IFC Info Session	5 Bowling	6 Poker	7 Invite Only	8 Invite Only
9 NBA All-Star Game and Pizza	10 Bill Bateman's Wing Night	11 On Target Shooting Range 5:15 PM	12 Cigar Night	13 Jillian's @ Arundel Mills	14 Off	15

All events meet at 7:00 PM @ 3035 St. Paul unless otherwise noted

For more information, contact:

Dave Byeff: dare@jhu.edu or Neil Patel: neilpatel@jhu.edu
410-516-3182 www.djshortbus.com/~sam 410-516-2525

BETA THETA PI

4 TUE IFC Info Nite 7:30 PM Glass Pav	5 WED Midnight Pizza BOLIS 12 AM AMR 1 - MPR	6 THURS Hooter's Wings 7:30 PM WOLMAN EAST LOUNGE	7 FRI Sub Night SUBWAY 6-8PM WOLMAN EAST LOUNGE	8 SAT Jillian's Meet 2PM @ AMR 2 Courtyard
9 SUN NBA All-Star Game Meet 7PM @ HOUSE	10 MON DAY OFF	11 TUE All You Can Eat Wings Meet 6PM @ AMR 2 Courtyard	12 WED Bowling Meet 9PM @ AMR 2 Courtyard	13 THURS INVITE ONLY

Spring Rush '03



PIKE spring rush '03

Pi Kappa Alpha

Iota Tau Chapter

3 E. 33rd St.



President Tom Dugliani (410) 235-9349	4 tue info sess. glass pav 8pm	5 weds pit beef pike house 7pm	6 thurs Subway Sub night @ 7pm SUBWAY	7 fri An Around the World Buffet
8 sat Football & PJ's Meet @ house 2pm	9 sun Backyard BBQ	10 mon DAY OF REST	11 tues meet @ house 6pm	12 weds invite only 8pm

ΣAE RUSH SCHEDULE

Monday February 3	Tuesday February 4	Wednesday February 5	Thursday February 6	Friday February 7	Saturday February 8	Sunday February 9
Mandatory Informational Session Glass Pavilion 7:00 PM	Wings and Pizza At the house 2938 St. Paul 7:30 PM	Live Entertainment At the house 2938 St. Paul 8:00 PM	ESPN ZONE Meet at the house at 6:30 PM	Football & BBQ BIA's at 1:00 PM	Basketball Meet in back gym of the A.C. 2:30 PM	
Monday February 10	Tuesday February 11	Wednesday February 12	Thursday February 13	Friday February 14	Saturday February 15	Sunday February 16
DAY OFF	Pool in the Harbor Meet at the House 7:00 PM	Live Entertainment INVITE ONLY At the house 8:00 PM	DAY OFF	Pledge Initiation Don't worry its not the end its just the beginning		

Rush SigEp
Spring 2003

Wednesday 02-05 Bateman's Wings

Thursday 02-06 Bowling

Friday 02-07 Wings & Foes

Saturday 02-08 SigEp Olympics (5PM at the House)

Sunday 02-09 Day of Rest



Friday 02-14 Day of Rest

Thursday 02-13 Casino Night

Wednesday 02-12 Retro Video Game Night

Tuesday 02-11 Pool at Champion's

Monday 02-10 Eating Contest

The Fine Print:
All events meet at the house 2938 St. Paul 7:00 PM unless otherwise noted

RUSH 2003

AEP

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
ALL EVENTS MEET @ 3008 GUILFORD		Greek Information Session	Bowlin' with Brothers	Hooters Nite	ALL U CAN EAT BAGELS	GENTLEMAN'S NIGHT
		8:15 PM		7 PM	7 PM	6:45 PM
9 FOOTBALL "Meet @ AMR Courtyard"	10 Bateman's 1:30 PM	11 NIGHT AT THE BALLPARK HOTDOGS & BASEBALL MOVIES	12 INVITE ONLY	13 INVITE ONLY		QUESTIONS! PSLAEP.ORG
	6:30 PM	6:30 PM	7 PM			JOSH DICKSTEIN JND207@msn.com
						SAM PERMUTT SAMMY1282@HOTMAIL.COM

FIJI RUSH '03

MON. 3/8	TUES. 4/9	WED. 5/10	THURS. 6/11	FRI. 7/12	SAT. 8/13
Info Session	Casino Night	Bowling	Fiji Bowl 2003	BBQ	BBQ, BBQ, Skydiving in Ocean City
			Meet @ Fiji House 4pm Postgame at 2938 N Charles St.	Meet @ Fiji House 4pm	Meet @ Fiji House 4pm
			7pm	7pm	5pm
			9pm Fiji House	9pm Fiji House	2938 N Charles St.

Lambda Phi Epsilon Rush 2003

Monday	Tuesday - 4 th	Wednesday - 5 th	Thursday - 6 th	Friday - 7 th	Saturday - 8 th	Sunday - 9 th
	IFC Info Night	ΛΦΕ Info Night Meet at Wolman 6:15 PM	Pool with Lambda Lil Sisters Meet at Wolman 7:30	Fuddruckers Meet at Wolman 7:00 PM	BBQ with ΣΩΠ Sorority 2638 N. Charles 5:00 PM	Day of Rest
Monday - 10 th	Tuesday - 11 th	Wednesday - 12 th	Thursday - 13 th	Friday 14 th	Saturday - 15 th	Sunday - 16 th
	Bowling with UMBC KΦΔ Sorority Meet at Wolman 8:15	Invite Back Dinner TBD				

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All Events Meet @ WOLMAN LOUNGE at 7:30pm unless otherwise noted

Tues. 4 Feb. Info Session at Glass Pav, hang around our table to go out for doughnuts afterwards!

Wed. 5 Feb. Pizza Eating Contest

Thurs. 6 Feb. Hooters Billiards

Fri. 7 Feb. Night

Sat. 8 Feb. Football, Frisbee and Pizza at the Beach, 2:30 PM

Sun. 9 Feb. Break Day

Mon. 10 Feb. Wings and Poker

Tues. 11 Feb. Invite Only

Wed. 12 Feb. Break Day

Thurs. 13 Feb. Invite Only

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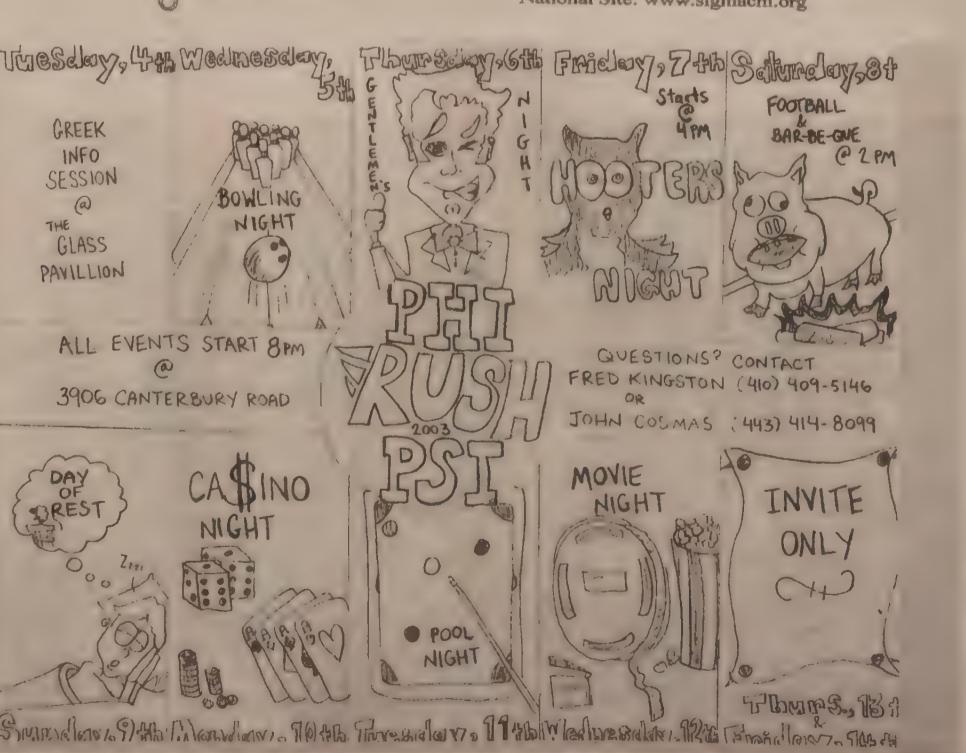
National Site: www.sigmachi.org

For any questions concerning any event, the Fraternity, or anything else, contact:

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Rush Co-Chairs Aaron Seider x-3703 JP Balfour x-3242

President Joe Chung x-6390 (410) 274-3098



ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Polanski's *The Pianist* contributes to Holocaust films



COURTESY OF GUY FERRANDIS

BY JESSIE OPINION
THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-Letter

Once is not enough, and there is no place where the adage rings truer than Hollywood. The 1993 release of the seminal *Schindler's List* brought about a spate of films that endlessly re-imagined and re-interpreted the Holocaust, inundating the public with tales of horrific brutality and remarkable courage. In a culture where repetition is the norm, saturation dulls the senses and makes us cynical and indifferent. The Holocaust, for all of its tragedy and impact on history and humanity, represents nothing more than a terrible moment in time for a number of people.

How is it possible to penetrate our consciousness and shock our sensibilities when death and suffering are all too common in film? An accomplishment of such magnitude requires vision, intelligence, and most importantly, an intangible quality that delineates and differentiates it from its multitudinous counterparts. In *The Pianist*, Roman Polanski not only meets the substantial challenges that lie before him; he surpasses them, giving the world both a stunning work of art and a profound meditation on human nature that acknowledges the tenacity of man without lauding it.

The Pianist opens with a fluid, smoothly shot scene in which renowned pianist Wladyslaw Szpilman (Adrien Brody) plays Chopin for broadcast on Polish radio. Immediately, Polanski establishes mood and sensibility, filling each frame with intricate details that only serve to heighten the single-minded intensity of his main character. The music comes first for Szpilman, even as the world around him crumbles into soul-numbing nothingness. When bombs shatter the windows of the studio, he continues to play, intent on doing justice to the piece by completing it to the best of his ability, despite the distractions that surround him.

The succeeding scenes serve to establish the circumstances of the world that Szpilman inhabits. We meet his family and friends, men and women who struggle to uphold their dignity and sense of humor, even as their fine garments become ragged at the hems and their jokes become morbid and self-deprecating in the worst kind of way. We also see Warsaw, a vibrant city alive with activity and culture that painfully becomes a skeleton of its former self, both figuratively and literally.

The transition from glory to ruin is a primary theme of the film, and we experience it through the character of Szpilman, as he loses first his family and eventually his pride, his dignity and a

decent means of living. When the Germans first isolate the Jewish population of Warsaw, he makes a conscious effort to dress properly in tailored suits and looks with bemusement upon a man who wretches a can of grains from an elderly woman and proceeds to eat its contents off the ground when she accidentally drops it. By the end of his ordeal, he is filthy and unkempt, wearing the coat of a German officer because it is his only means of keeping warm, and he carries around an old can of provisions like a prized possession, holding onto it even as its weight becomes too much for his emaciated frame.

Technically, the film is exquisite. Pawel Edelman's cinematography captures the sweep of the story with poise and restraint; his clean movements of the camera and smartly composed shots serve to aid in the development of character and plot, not the other way around. Likewise, production designer Allan Starski and costume designer Anna Sheppard's efforts result in a spot-on, visually compelling re-creation of 1940s Warsaw. Editor Hervé de Luze also deserves recognition for his sharp, precise cuts that allow the seemingly disjointed parts of the film to merge seamlessly. Especially noteworthy are the transitions made between the long, gracefully fingered hands that glide effortlessly over the piano keys and

Brody's face, equally graceful and riveting in its assurance and focus as he plays.

The Pianist features a series of finely tuned, smartly realized performances that add depth and nuance to the film without detracting from its point of focus. The quietly luminous Emilia Fox and the note-perfect Thomas Kretschmann are especially impressive in their respective roles as Dorota, Szpilman's cellist acquaintance who helps him after his escape from the Jewish ghetto, and Captain Wilm Hosenfeld, a German officer who shows mercy to the pianist after an extraordinarily acted and filmed incident that establishes an unexpected understanding between the two men. However, the weight of the *gravitas* and *pathos* that lie at the heart of *The Pianist* rests upon the shoulders of Adrien Brody, and he carries it with marvelous grace and strength. His portrayal of Wladyslaw Szpilman is a study in intensity and sense of purpose that catapults the film from a merely competent if artistically compelling biopic to an astonishing, powerful work of art fraught with complexities and shadows.

Brody is a man of gangly, exaggerated lines and sharply honed angles, and he effectively uses his intriguing presence to portray the spectrum of

changes that Szpilman experiences as he goes from living the life of an elegant, gifted artist to salvaging scraps of food and water as a desperate, starving man on the precariously thin edge of survival. Likewise, his eyes — expressive, heavy-lidded eyes whose darkness serves both as a mirror of his surroundings and a curtain shielding the depths of his most private self — speak volumes of the bewildering confusion and staggering loneliness that characterize Szpilman's existence over the course of the film. Brody's performance is primarily physical, and the manner in which he expresses himself through the set of his jaw and the rhythm of his gait does more to illustrate the tenuous conflict between the needs of a man as a human being and a living creature than an entire script full of dramatic, eloquent dialogue would in the hands of a lesser actor.

Brody is the light of the film; Polanski is the keeper of that light, responsible for its power and strength. *The Pianist* is not an easy film to watch. The pacing is slow, the structure is episodic rather than linear, and the dialogue is deliberately stilted and sparse. It also makes for a draining experience, as its distant, thoughtfully mannered depiction of the basest aspects of human nature presents complications to both the mind and the heart. The film serves as a challenge to Polanski not only as a filmmaker but also as a survivor of the Holocaust who lived in the Polish ghetto until he was seven years old. His knowledge is absolute, and he is unrelenting in his depiction of the physical and psychological conditions of both the Germans and the Jews.

However, his relentless exists within a realm of detachment, evident in the manner in which events occur as

products of actions and circumstances rather than the experiences of people. Distance is not only an artistic conceit in *The Pianist*; it is a necessity for a man who lost both his mother and his innocence before he was fully able to understand why. Polanski knows all too well that survival is often a matter of luck and good fortune rather than skill and strength, and he is unsparing in his clear-eyed portrayal of Szpilman as an ordinary man in extraordinary circumstances. Oddly enough, his distanced approach heightens the emotional aspect of the film. Emotion is a matter of visceral response, an idea often forgotten by ham-fisted directors who underestimate the intelligence of their audiences by force-feeding feeling through calculated, obvious overtures. As we see the story through Szpilman's increasingly disillusioned eyes, we realize the gravity of the situation, precisely because we are aware of the events as both separate entities in their entirety and catalysts of psychological and physical change on the part of those who experience them.

The Jewish population of Warsaw went on to regain their freedom after the Russians defeated the Germans in the mid-40s. Wladyslaw Szpilman went on to live in Warsaw as a world-renowned pianist until his death in 2000. For a number of people, life is a matter of victory, defeat and perseverance. For others, life is simply a matter of going on. With its clarity, grace and integrity, *The Pianist* acknowledges the former and pays tribute to the latter. It is not a film about triumph, but it is a triumph itself, and it deserves its place both on the Academy shortlists (hopefully) and the world of film, Holocaust-based or otherwise.

Swedes wow the USA



COURTESY OF UNIVERSAL RECORDS

BY MARTIN MARKS
THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-Letter

sic, yet has the appearance of someone who wouldn't get past the first rounds of American Idol on looks alone.

Indeed, though two of the members of the breakthrough Swedish group The Hives look like your typical emo-rockers, the other two guys in the group look like they would be more at home in a bowling alley than on a stage. Though they have a thick garage-band sound, they offset themselves from the American scene through their Beatlesque style of dressing, which mainly features black shirts and pants and a white tie. Though their first album, *Veni Vidi Vicius*, took a long time to hit the American music scene, their hit single "Hate to say I told you so" still gets a lot of air play.

In our very own Charm City, two Swedish rock bands, the Sahara Hotnights and the (International) Noise Conspiracy have visited the Ottobar and Fletcher's stages. Visiting right when the weather started to get cold in October, the Sahara Hotnights are an all-girl group that appears to be Sweden's answer to the Donnas.

Though I'm not particularly a fan of the (International) Noise Conspiracy, I've heard that their show at the Ottobar was one of the best of 2002. With on-stage antics such as climbing the amplifiers and the balconies near the stage, their heavy sound would probably appeal more to those who are into the metal/post-punk mix.

Thus, while Pink and Shania Twain seem to litter the airwaves, check out some of the Swedish rock acts at your local music store. Their sounds, looks and styles have brought a refreshing mix to American airwaves that have grown stagnant with complacency.

Wallflower's Red Letter Days sways the skeptics

BY KIM ANDREWS
THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-Letter

The vast majority of pop culture was unhesitating in bowing down to the son of the great Bob Dylan (despite the fact that said son tried vehemently to rid himself of the Dylan label), rocketing The Wallflowers to what certainly seemed like instant stardom, as well as fame, fortune and power that his father never seemed to enjoy. I was never myself a particular fan of the band, however. Jakob Dylan's plaintive voice and overtly dark lyrics did not strike a particularly resonant chord within me — I would leave the radio station on when I heard "The Difference," but I did

not own a Wallflowers CD, nor did I care to.

I was changed for good, however, upon hearing the newest Wallflowers album, *Red Letter Days*. Released in November, the album is even better than the oft-touted *Bringing Down the Horse*, the 1996 album that produced no less than four singles on an 11-track record. The newer album exhibits a much more coherent musical statement, filled with lilting melodies and, of course, Jakob Dylan's inherently brilliant lyrical talent.

Overall, the album makes much better use of Dylan's particular vocal style than past efforts. Harmonizing with himself on the highly melodic tracks "Three Ways" and "If You

Never Got Sick" and with several backing vocalists on "How Good It Can Get" produces astoundingly ear-pleasing, soothing sounds that have not been present on earlier albums. The softer tracks are mildly reminiscent of David Grey, while the more edgy ones have an almost Counting Crows feel to them. Both bands tend to draw fans that would very much enjoy *Red Letter Days*.

While the album does not make a definitive statement from the beginning to the end (in other words, the order of the tracks makes no real sense, which is usually a negligible aspect of a record), the music is, thematically, extremely consistent. Almost all of the tracks make seamless

progressions between major and minor keys, giving depth and dimension to Dylan's wonderfully mellow but tonally limited voice.

However, there are two tracks — "Everybody Out of the Water" and "Too Late to Quit" — that bring the quality of the album down, albeit barely noticeably. Both of these tracks leave the overall tone of the album and, instead, aspire to be true-rock tunes, thus jarring the listener somewhat with the sudden lack of complicated melody and the upped volume (and, in the case of Dylan, lowered quality) of the leading vocals. But even these tracks have redeeming melodic aspects in the choruses, making them almost annoyingly catchy.

The musical triumph of the album, on a whole, seems to be the track "When I Get There." The song is a mildly sugary confection that is probably more effective than Prozac at lifting the spirits. It is, aggravatingly, the shortest song on the album. But musically, it is refreshing, catchy and just offbeat enough to be a truly unique creation.

And no analysis of The Wallflowers would be complete without addressing Jakob Dylan's masterfully lyrical skills. His uncanny ability to pair just the right words with melody make the entire album full of quotable verse. Combined with the band's striking musical talent, Dylan's lyrics render each song a meaningful accomplishment.

Overall, this album is a runaway success for The Wallflowers. Rich, complicated and undistorted melodies combine with Jakob Dylan's masterful songwriting to form what is possibly the band's best work to date. If you're a Wallflowers fan, you will not want to miss this album.



COURTESY OF VINCENT HAYES

The Wallflowers have surpassed their work on Bringing Down the Horse with their new Red Letter Days.

Nicholson, Bates are perfect match in *About Schmidt*

For those of you who have had the pleasure of the comedic wonders of *Citizen Ruth* and *Election*, it probably comes as no surprise that the anticipation for Alexander Payne and Jim Taylor's third screenplay, *About Schmidt*, had reached a fever pitch as early as Cannes in 2002. The trumpeting through the current film critic award season and subsequent industry standards, such as the Golden Globes (where Payne and Taylor beat out Charlie Kaufman's *Adaptation* in the Best Screenplay race) and the fast-approaching Academy Awards, is merely icing on the cake. With Jack Nicholson and Kathy Bates attached, the film debuted with a sink-or-swim attitude, with expectations floating high, and I am proud to say Payne, Taylor and the cast do more than hold their own in an unexpectedly strong recent string of films (*Chicago*, *The Hours*, *The Pianist*). Quite simply, they have collaborated on arguably the best film of the past year.

Alexander Payne is no stranger to satire, but after tackling compartmentalized subjects such as abortion in *Citizen Ruth* and political campaigns in *Election*, the co-writer and director seems partial to the experiences of American life and, in particular, life after retirement. The film stars Nicholson as Warren Schmidt, a recently retired insurance actuary living in Omaha, Neb. Warren finds himself restless and suffering a post-midlife crisis, bottled up with frustration and boredom in a humdrum life. He visits his old office space, only to find a much younger executive has replaced him, and does not need any follow-up assistance. His loving wife starts to annoy him with a passion, while his only daughter, Jeannie (Hope Davis) insists on marrying

Randall (Dermott Mulroney), a man with a pseudo-mullet and a penchant for self-help books and pyramid schemes. Warren's only release is in sponsoring a six-year-old child from Tanzania named Ndugu. In every letter, Warren explodes without sensitivity for a young child, hiding behind the guise of wise mentor.

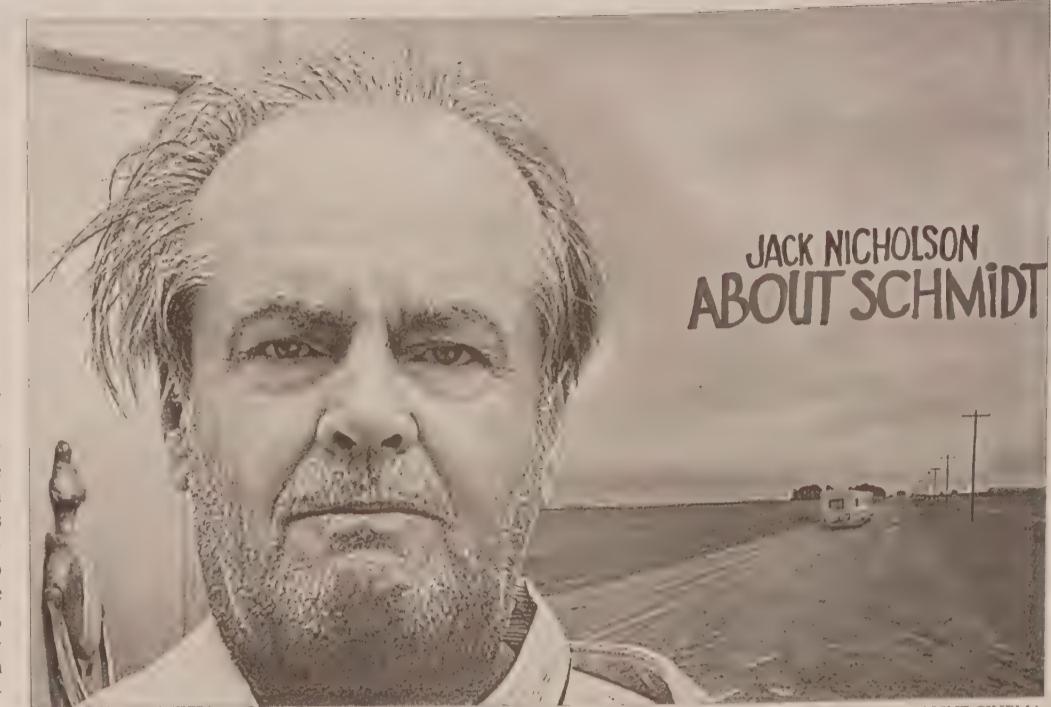
Suddenly, Warren's wife dies and during the grieving period, he realizes he must not let Jeannie marry Randall, clinging to a relationship that was never entirely strong to begin with. So, Warren sets out in his recently purchased Winnebago and heads to Denver to stop the impending wedding. Along the way, we discover mid-western life in all its sublime humor, without the urge for

controlled intervals. After many years of acting younger than what is believable, the great Nicholson finally grows up and embodies his old age without fear. His Schmidt is incapable of social interactions, after all those comfortable years in an office, specializing in the prediction of death as an actuary. After his wife dies, and daughter returns to Denver, Warren fails to take care of himself. Nicholson delivers a career-defining performance that is life affirming, as Warren must learn to cope by himself and muster up the strength to drive to Denver, despite the selfish, unholy motive to crash Jeannie's wedding.

After a month of reflection on the road, Warren enters Denver with the best, misguided intentions. Upon dinner with Randall's family, his fears are confirmed, as the family's low-brow lifestyle screams mistake to Warren. Kathy Bates portrays the boorish Roberta, Randall's mother, an independent, energetic, loud matriarch who spouts corn-fed wisdom to Nicholson, as an attempt to connect with her future in-law. She is thrilled for Randall and Jeannie, and optimistically encourages the pair, while trying to loosen up the tightly wound Warren.

Nicholson and Bates are perfectly matched, and I am disappointed that these two have never been paired together in a previous film. As his foil, Bates embodies Roberta with a stark, naked quality that refuses to hide any misgivings. Unfortunately, Schmidt is so maladjusted for human interaction that he quickly escapes from a hot tub with a harmless, naked Bates sitting across from him.

About Schmidt is a powerful road movie without the clichés of a road movie, preferring to wax metaphors for an American lifestyle not often experienced in film. Mid-western



JACK NICHOLSON
ABOUT SCHMIDT

COURTESY OF NEW LINE CINEMA

Jack Nicholson plays Warren Schmidt in *About Schmidt*, part of the stream of good films out in theaters.

JONATHAN GROCE
GROCERY
UNDERRATED

exploitive parody. The screenplay is perfectly crafted, winding through the road of life, satirizing what the pathetic Warren represents, a tired man at 65 finally waking up to a world that has neglected him for too long. His broken dreams are sad, but along the way, Schmidt's encouraging search for himself is intensely existential and surprisingly poignant.

Nicholson abandons his acting tricks made famous in classic films such as *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, *The Shining* and *As Good As It Gets*, dropping the smug smirks and mischievous eyebrows. Instead, Nicholson plays Schmidt as implausible as humanly possible, only allowing foreboding outbursts at proper,

humor, embodied in the simple town of Omaha, provides a natural landscape for one everyman to rediscover his life after retirement. The journey is punitive, insisting on taking us where we don't want to go. However, as soon as we indulge with Schmidt, the rite of passage is utterly transcendent. Quite frankly, *About Schmidt* is probably the most understated film to delve into spirituality in recent years.

Throughout his whole life, Schmidt has been stuck in the same place, the same office, and even after his long journey, Schmidt realizes he has not budged an inch in terms of emotional growth. However, there is

a moment in the final scene, when Nicholson reads a short letter, in which he moves just an inch forward, and subsequently the furthest along he has come in some 40 years. *About*

Schmidt is staggeringly powerful, emotionally adept and concisely constructed, with brilliant performances all around. Omaha, Neb. never had it so good.

OUT AND ABOUT

MARTIN MARKS

Welcome back, everyone! I hope everyone's well rested and ready to hit the town, because there are a bunch of shows this week worth checking out.

Still sad over the death of the Clash's Joe Strummer? Then check out the Ottobar on Friday night, for an evening of Clash tributes. Featuring Pulaski, The Jennifers, Radiation Puppy, Circle 9, just to name a few, this show should start up the new semester nice and right. Doors open at 9 p.m. and the Ottobar is located on Howard Street. Check out <http://www.theottobar.com> for more information.

May I just say, yet again, how nice it is not to have to drive into D.C. to go to a Buzz event! This Saturday at the Redwood Trust (in Baltimore!), Buzz is featuring a night of Electrosleaze, described as a weaving together of the best sounds of '80s New Wave and '90s techno to create an all new sound. With audios as rapid-fire as a machine gun, L.A.'s Richard Humpty Vision will be leading the lineup with your not-so-typical house. The evening also includes D.C.'s own Suneel, Morpheus and

Wess. It's \$8 till 11 p.m., \$15 afterward (though, since it's the first Saturday of the month, Velvet card holders get in free), located at Nation at Halfand K Street. Check out <http://www.velvetnation.com> for more information.

To cap off your weekend, then check out Ottobar's Leisure, a chill out party featuring the music of DJ Craig Boarman ("Underground"). Again, the Ottobar is located on Howard Street, and check out <http://www.theottobar.com> for more information.

CSN&Y raped by Sony

BY CHARLES DONEFER

THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-Letter

quality ad executives are looking for in background music when they have camcorders to sell.

Another nail in the coffin of popular music occurred late in the second half of the Super Bowl.

As you might guess, it had nothing to do with the Raiders' sloppy passing, but with the much more important part of the game — the commercials. To be more specific, the nail in question was "The Trip," an advertisement for Sony digital camcorders. The ad was a minute-long story of an aging baby boomer space tourist who videotapes his expensive vacation for the benefit of relatives back on Earth.

As is true with many ads, the product and the visuals were somewhat overshadowed by the background music, in this case, Alana Davis' cover of the Crosby, Stills, Nash and Young classic, "Carry On."

Davis, best known for covering Ani DiFranco's "32 Flavors," recently switched from Elektra to Columbia Records, which is owned by Sony. For the switch, she was rewarded with the ad, which ran briefly in November, but made its biggest impact last Sunday. Connected with the Super Bowl ad was a large Internet rollout for the single of "Carry On" complete with a 99 cent downloadable version.

Why is this a sign of the pop music apocalypse? Like many other songs, Davis' cover of "Carry On" is awful, but what draws it apart from the other pap out there is the unique way in which it is awful. Davis manages to take a classic song, filled with emotion, beautiful harmony, creative guitar work and social relevance and turn it into *American Idol*-style karaoke.

Neil Young's psychedelic guitar was sucked out of "Carry On," replaced by anonymous session musicians who slog through the number as if it were any old ad jingle. Those guitars made the original "Carry On" a piece of music that one could become entranced by, blocking out all other stimuli in favor of paying attention to the music. Needless to say, this isn't a

grandiose collective decision-making on music, which are similar to the dangers of putting choruses in pop songs, which is to say that it drowns out anything exceptional or original in favor of being mildly pleasing to more people.

Even the "plot" of the ad represents a decline in the culture. Back when "Carry On" was released, America was putting people on the moon as a culmination of a decade-long collective effort on behalf of the nation and the free world. The space tourist in the ad was on a quest for himself, achieved by writing a check instead of participating in a scientific adventure.

The corporatization of "Carry On" and the concept of space tourism are not necessary steps in the economic growth of music and aerospace, respectively; they are the sign of a loss of hope. Sanitized covers of rock classics are not the inevitable outcome of corporate control; it is the inevitable outcome of a culture that sees no benefit to rocking the boat.

Don't count me among the millions of misguided Naderites who see the music industry, the Bush Administration and the WTO as one big evil cabal aiming to pave over everything that is original and the least bit exciting and replace it with numbed suburban passivity. I believe that popular music is popular for a reason: people like to listen to it. Best-selling artists are very often fun, catchy and worthwhile. The problem comes when the quest for mass appeal takes something amazing and makes it just okay.



COURTESY OF NEW LINE

Frodo and the gang take on new dangers in the new Lord of the Rings.

Day Lewis, DiCaprio showcase their talents in *Gangs*



COURTESY OF HTTP://WWW.CAMERON-DIAZ.HU

Leonardo DiCaprio jumps from a trolley car in *Gangs of New York*, one of two DiCaprio films this season.

BY EVAN PEREZ
THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-Letter

In *Gangs of New York*, Martin Scorsese presents a compelling story of a poor Irish immigrant, struggling in New York City during the Civil

War era. Orphaned in the Five Points area of the city 16 years earlier, Amsterdam Vallon (Leonardo DiCaprio) returns to avenge his father's death at the hands of William "Bill the Butcher" Cutting (Daniel Day-Lewis). I don't know about you,

but other than the setting, that sounds like the plot summary of your average revenge movie. Fortunately, Scorsese's film is so much more than that, drawing from a fine cast, a wonderfully realized set, interesting subplots and all-around intelligent film-

making.

I think that I'm required by law to state that this is the "triumphant return to the screen for Daniel Day-Lewis" or something like that. Fortunately, it's the truth. Day-Lewis does such an amazing job in portraying the native New Yorker that it's hard to describe what he does as "acting." Like too few actors and actresses, in too few roles, he fully becomes the character he is playing, and to the audience, there is no distinction between Daniel Day-Lewis and Bill the Butcher. His work in *Gangs* could be likened to the villains we watched in awe, disgust and horror as children, who became etched into our minds as not characters but living, breathing monsters. His accent is perfectly flawed, his sneer both sinister and charming, and he somehow manages to overcome a wardrobe that seems rather odd at first, perhaps with his so-awkward-it-couldn't-be-faked gait. I'm not sure how tall he is, but with the way he carries himself, swinging his legs out and hunching his shoulders ever-so-slightly, Bill the Butcher is oddly reminiscent of a stilt-walker in a parade. It's just foolish enough to be downright frightening.

Day-Lewis isn't the only one who lends great acting to the film. Leonardo DiCaprio may have earned himself a name more as a late '90s heartthrob (or so I'm told) than a serious dramatic actor, but, while he's

not as convincing as Daniel Day-Lewis, his portrayal of Vallon is remarkably well done. He brings a charm to his character that is unfortunately unmatched by Cameron Diaz's disappointing performance. The duo are perhaps not the best actors Martin Scorsese could have picked, but DiCaprio is good enough, and Diaz manages not to detract too much from the quality of the film.

He may not have gone all out on the actors, but I'll be damned if he doesn't make up for it with the backdrop for the film. New York, circa 1863, was painstakingly recreated in the studios of Rome's enormous Cinecittà, the discerning epic filmmaker's studio of choice. Everything was designed with the utmost attention to detail, and it provides the audience with the grand kind of a movie-going experience that we're only used to seeing from directors like Stanley Kubrick or Steven Spielberg. That attention to detail carries over to the ultra-violence of the battle sequences — and many of the non-battle sequences. While a few of the setting shots look a bit too fake, and there are some distracting tricks with the focus, the vast majority of the film is visually stimulating, something which can be accredited to the set and wardrobe designers as well as the cinematographer.

The acting's mostly great, and the film looks just as good. At this point,

all that's left to make or break *Gangs* is the script. Oddly, it does neither. The scripted dialogue isn't always up to par, but it's not that bad either. And while the story isn't the most original, the background does provide for a lot of intriguing themes. I don't want to give anything away, but the anti-climactic ending does an excellent job of tying together the conflict between DiCaprio and Day-Lewis with the ever-increasing tension between the citizens and the government finally erupting into what I believe (you History majors can correct me if I'm wrong here) were the largest riots in U.S. history.

And now I have a confession to make: I'm not really all that wild about New York. In fact, after Los Angeles, it's probably my least favorite American city.

So with that said, and with 10 million new enemies today, I'd like to thank Martin Scorsese for returning to the subject he does best: the blurred morals of life and death in New York. He's the only filmmaker I can think of who can do such a good job of simultaneously portraying the city you love as violently and beautifully as this. *Mean Streets*, *Goodfellas*, *Taxi Driver*, *Raging Bull* — these are your most well-known, most respected, and best films. I can only hope that *Gangs of New York* will join the ranks of those other Scorsese/NYC masterpieces in the years to come. It certainly deserves it.

Catch Me If You Can entertains theater-goers

Leonardo DiCaprio thrills audiences with his second contribution to the movie season



COURTESY OF DREAMWORKS

BY REBECCA SHIELDS
THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-Letter

Just call 2003 "the year of Leonardo." After a four year hiatus from his breakthrough performance in *Titanic*, Leonardo DiCaprio is back in full force starring in two of the biggest blockbusters this movie season: *Gangs of New York* and

Steven Spielberg's newest flick, *Catch Me If You Can*.

Released on Christmas Day, *Catch Me If You Can* boasts a cast of megastars including Tom Hanks, Christopher Walken and Martin Sheen. *Catch Me* has so much to offer audiences that critics have had difficulty classifying the movie, resulting in a four group categoriza-

tion: thriller, crime/gangster, drama and action/adventure.

DiCaprio's embodiment of this role as Frank Abagnale, Jr., is what truly makes this film superb. He accepts Frank with conviction; one can only wonder if DiCaprio relates to Frank's frivolity on a much larger level. The story follows Abagnale and his skill as an illusionist. At the age of 17, Frank becomes the most successful bank robber in the entire history of the United States, and Carl Hanratty (Tom Hanks) makes it his prime mission to capture Frank and put an end to the forgery. Frank, however, is always a few steps ahead of the FBI, resulting in a suspenseful chase for justice.

Frank's work as a con-artist begins at the young age of 16, following the divorce of his parents and his mission to break away from his "broken home." Several bounced checks and enormous credit card debt follow, forcing Frank to utilize his power of persuasion and ability to impersonate others. Later, this ability allows Frank to impersonate a Pan Am co-pilot with such accuracy that he accumulates hundreds of free flights. It is this action that marks the beginning of his criminal career. The audience is glued to the screen as Frank successfully assumes a variety of roles, most memorably those of an emergency room doctor and an assistant district attorney.

Absurdly this story is actually based on someone's real life. Frank Abagnale Jr. did make himself into a very rich man by learning how to forge checks and con unsuspecting

DiCaprio's embodiment of his role as Frank Abagnale, Jr., is what truly makes this film superb.

victims into believing his schemes.

Frank and Carl offer a "cat and mouse" aspect to the movie. Frank lives a lifestyle filled with luxury and beautiful girls, while Carl works nights and holidays waiting for his moment to shine. One wonders if Carl will ever actually attain his goal of stopping Frank. The audience watches as Carl's attempts to nab Frank flounder, making the chase more personal with each failure.

DiCaprio's amazing ability to portray Abagnale's struggles is demonstrated in his ability to merge with Frank. Perhaps part of the success of this film is in DiCaprio's ability to portray a teenager who can enter the "adult world" and prove that a child is always steps ahead.

A superbly produced and directed film, *Catch Me If You Can* shows Spielberg's ability to shine as one of the greatest directors/producers of all time, as he makes this bizarre life story tangible. Rather

than focusing entirely on the con-artist aspect of Abagnale's life, Spielberg portrays the effects of divorce on the life of a young adolescent. The movie also plays down Abagnale's sexual exploits. Spielberg focuses more on Frank's exile from suburbia. Frank's genius is evident throughout the movie.

The film leaves the audience content as participants in one of the most exciting and intriguing films of this year. Be sure to watch DiCaprio and the entire cast around Oscar time; this movie is sure to win many accolades in the upcoming awards season!

Confessions showcases Charlie Kaufman's skill

BY JASON SHAHINFAR
THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-Letter

Confessions of a Dangerous Mind was the third Charlie Kaufman script to come to the big screen in 2002. Man, this guy is just amazing. When was the last time that you actively sought out films by a particular screenwriter? Paddy Chayefsky maybe?

When walking into a movie written by Kaufman, you know what you're getting into; comedy, usually dark and slightly off from the norm, and something to think about. *Confessions* almost delivers this package perfectly, but unfortunately falls short.

The movie is adapted from the book of the same title. The book, written in 1981, is a memoir of game show creator Chuck Barris (*The Gong Show*, *The Dating Game*, etc.). In this book he claims to have been an international assassin working for the CIA

during the height of his television career.

The movie is directed by and costars George Clooney. Clooney is a smart guy, and has made some good movie decisions in the past. He has been very much in support of certain films he has worked on, like *Three Kings*, which never would have gotten made without his support.

When he first read the script and book to *Confessions*, he really wanted to see this movie get made. Originally he was set to play CIA agent Jim Byrd and the produce the film. Bryan Singer was slated to direct with Mike Meyers in the lead role. This whole thing fell through and that left Clooney out on his ass. He decided to take to the directing chair himself and snag Sam Rockwell for the lead.

I have to say, for a directing debut, Clooney does a fine job. He's worked with great directors in the past and this was a good attempt. But it was only an attempt. The movie begins to

unravel and fall apart two thirds through.

Having read the book only a week before I saw this movie, I obviously picked out all the details in the book that never made it to the screen, or facts that were changed, and this got a little aggravating after a while. Now I did not expect a perfect adaptation, that's impossible, but anytime you read a book you immediately have your own version of how it would look in your head.

One thing I can say about the book is that it has amazing energy. This is a depressing story about the decline of western civilization and a man who blames himself, hates himself, and can't deal with it. Yet somehow the book is really fun to read. The behind the scenes stories about the show are much better than the CIA killing stuff.

The movie does get a lot of this energy in the first two thirds, but then it takes a dive and never resurfaces. I can understand if a first time director

can't put in the necessary energy into a piece, but when you drain a picture of the energy it already has, then you've really gotta rethink your battle strategy.

So the directing needs some work, let's overlook that for a moment. The cinematography and acting are great. This movie is more about what George Clooney's crew can do for him. Sam Rockwell really gets the characters down and Drew Barrymore is a ray of sunshine in this dark storm of a movie.

The saving grace of this film, though, is the last line in the movie. Throughout the movie there are short interviews with Jaye P. Morgan, Gene Gene the Dancing Machine and other people involved with Chuck's shows. At the very end of the film we get to see 70-year-old Chuck himself. The words that come out of his mouth are amazing, and I would feel really terrible ruining it here on paper. Am I forcing you to see the movie now? No, but the end is really great. Choose for yourself.

can't put in the necessary energy into a piece, but when you drain a picture of the energy it already has, then you've really gotta rethink your battle strategy.

BY NOREEN OKARTER

THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-Letter

After a five year absence, Shania Twain returned to the music scene late last year with *Up!*, an album that continues her list of hits and proves her staying power as country music's most successful female artist.

Up!, released on Nov. 19, sold nearly one million copies in its first week and has already sold more than 3 million copies total. In addition, it held the number one album spot for three weeks. *Up!* relies on the same formula used on *Come on Over*, her last album that broadened Twain's audience into the mainstream arena and sold 36 million copies, making it the best-selling album by a female artist. *Up!* continues to offer Twain's edgy country attitude and fun sound filled with songs that possess a down-to-earth appeal, with tracks like "In My Car (I'll Be the Driver)," "K-A-Ching," a song that mocks people's obsession with money and "What A Way To Wanna Be," which discusses the horrors of women's quest to achieve the perfect look. The album is also a continuation of Twain's sassy love songs such as "Waiter! Bring Me Water," "Nah!" and "Ain't No Particular Way."

Two of the best songs are the title track "*Up!*," which she recently performed at the Super Bowl, and "I'm Gonna Getcha Good," the first single released. These songs have the same energetic and enjoyable feel that Twain and producer/husband "Mutt" Lange have managed to keep generating throughout her career. They are comparable to past hits like "Man! I Feel Like a Woman." The ballads on the album, including "Forever and For Always" and "I'm Jealous," contain sensual lyrics that add beauty and eloquence. They, however, lack the musical grace that the ballads on

Up! shows Twain's growth as an artist who does not feel pressured to fit the mold of the typical country singer, yet still manages to have success despite her non-traditional fan base. Whether her music has a country, pop or Eastern Asian influence, Shania Twain proves that she is still on top.



COURTESY OF HTTP://WWW.SHANIA-TWAIN.ORG

Twain keeps it Up!

COME ON OVER had, such as the moving "You're Still the One."

The most interesting aspect of this album is the presentation of the music. The album contains two discs, one disc featuring the country versions and the other modified pop versions. The pop CD depicts Shania in a very cosmopolitan outfit to match her rock sound comprised of electric guitars and heavier drums that is suitable for radio airplay. On the country CD, Shania wears a cowboy hat, and the music features acoustic guitars and violins, a sound which Twain claims to have a "down-home feel."

For listeners who are curious about the reasoning behind the creation of the two CDs, Twain answers their inquiries with small liner note. She writes, "In meeting my audiences around the world during my last tour, I discovered something very exciting and liberating. My audiences consisted of an incredible variety of ages and nationalities. So, while writing and recording *Up!* I felt a freedom to explore all my different musical roots." In an interview with Katie Couric, Twain said that creating the two different sounds was not done to please her critics who claim that she has abandoned her country sound; it is rather a means to incorporate the different musical styles she listened to while she developed as an artist. On her website, Shania even delves further into her musical exploration by offering fans an Eastern Asian version of all the nineteen tracks on the album.

Up! shows Twain's growth as an artist who does not feel pressured to fit the mold of the typical country singer, yet still manages to have success despite her non-traditional fan base. Whether her music has a country, pop or Eastern Asian influence, Shania Twain proves that she is still on top.

CARTOONS, ETC.

your Horoscope



ARIES: (MARCH 21-APRIL 19)
After your drunk encounter last week with a Baltimore fish, you should be fully prepared to listen to your new math TA.



TAURUS: (APRIL 20-MAY 20)
This week, expect nothing new. That means you still receive your dose of doom, gloom, sleet and snow. Lots of snow.



GEMINI: (MAY 21-JUNE 20)
Wonderful news expected for next week as you finally get that paycheck you've been waiting for. Good thing Baltimore hoes are cheap.



CANCER: (JUNE 21-JULY 22)
Winter came here, but you bought tickets to New Hampshire for skiing. Cheer up and join your friends skiing Mount Bloomberg.



LEO: (JULY 23-AUGUST 22)
Students are not in your future. Sorry, but the alignment of the stars around Mercury definitely means your lab won't get its test subjects.



VIRGO: (AUGUST 23-SEPTEMBER 22)
Must go on vacation? Look no further than your own bathroom: your picturesque destination after last night's drunken escapade.



LIBRA: (SEPTEMBER 23 - OCTOBER 22)
Stop what you're doing. Just stop. Watching you sit around and do work on Saturday night is just sickening. Don't you realize biology has to be experienced?



SCORPIO: (OCTOBER 23 - NOVEMBER 21)
Praying to Almighty Bloomberg can't save you now. However, the stars suggest that a rain dance on the Gilman seal will improve your chance to graduate this year.



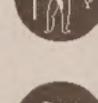
SAGITTARIUS: (NOVEMBER 22 - DEC. 21)
For this week, try a change of clothing. I'm talking an honest to goodness new pair of underwear, socks, shirt and pants. And the mullet. Lose the mullet.



CAPRICORN: (DEC. 23 - JANUARY 19)
More and more people just won't be able to resist you next week. It'll be a wild ride, so be prepared to just run with it. Waking up's gonna suck though.



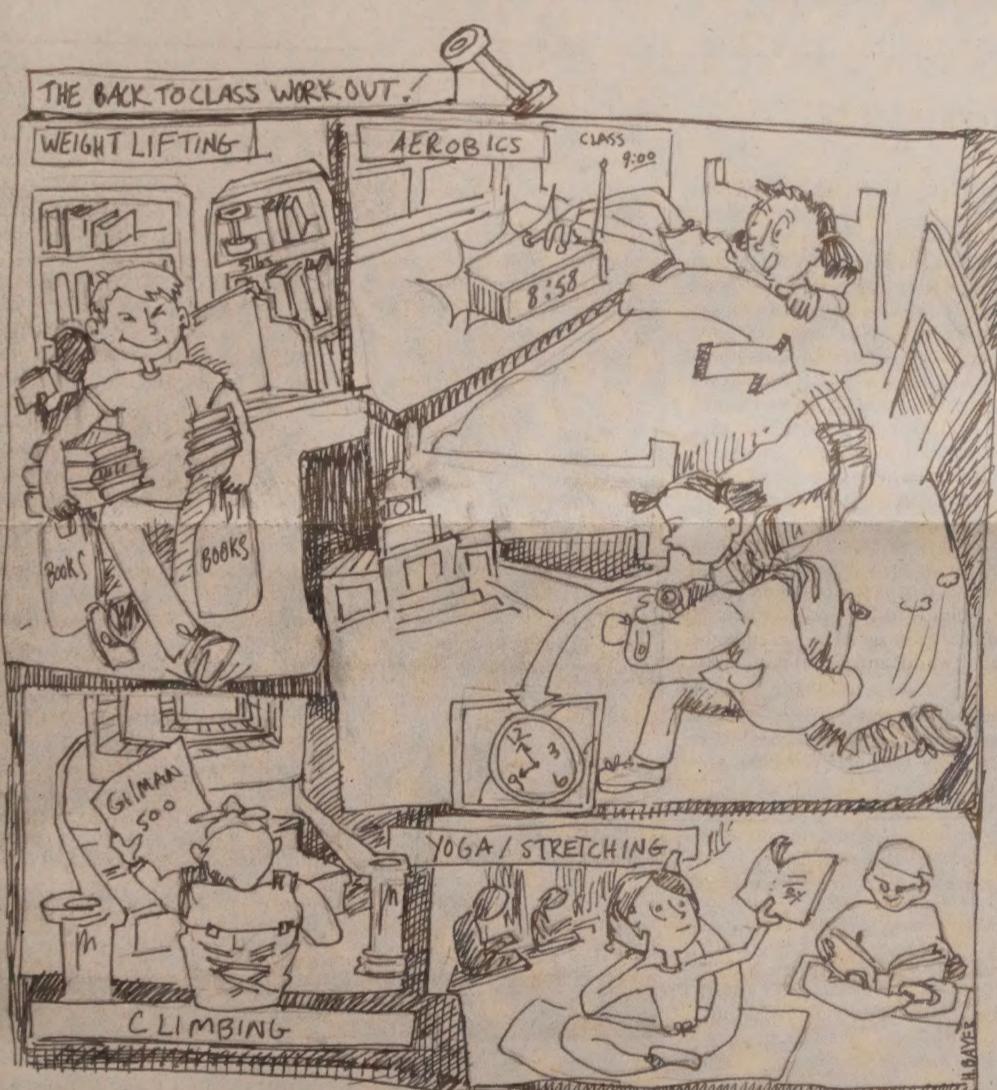
AQUARIUS: (JANUARY 20 - FEBRUARY 18)
Snow day? That can't possibly be in your future. After all, this place didn't close for a hurricane, so what makes you think you're getting a day off?



PISCES: (FEBRUARY 19 - MARCH 20)
Days Of Our Lives opens this week as a full-length feature movie. The crystal ball suggests that you need to learn every word and repeat it to that homeless guy. Now.

Back to School

by Helen Bayer



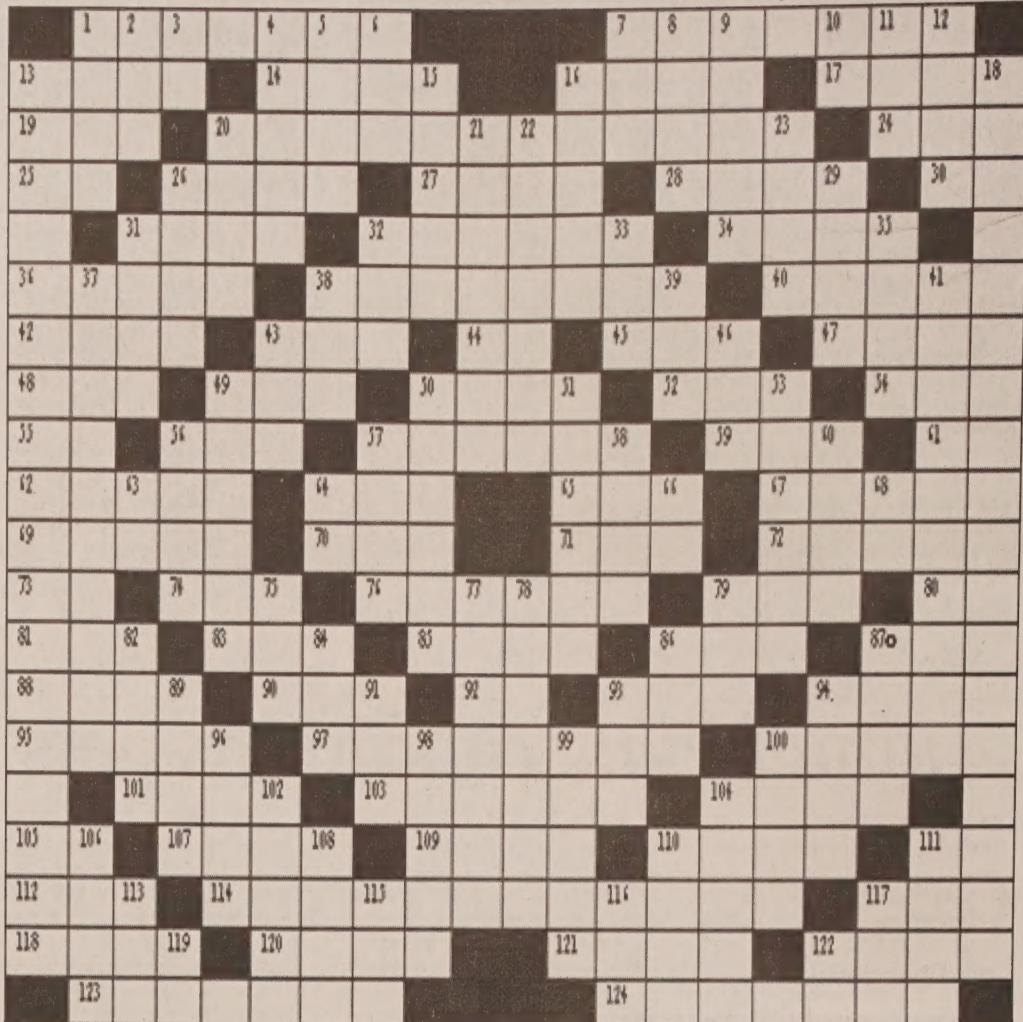
the hop

by Mahnu Davar



Weekly Crossword: Pizza Theme

by Emily Nalven



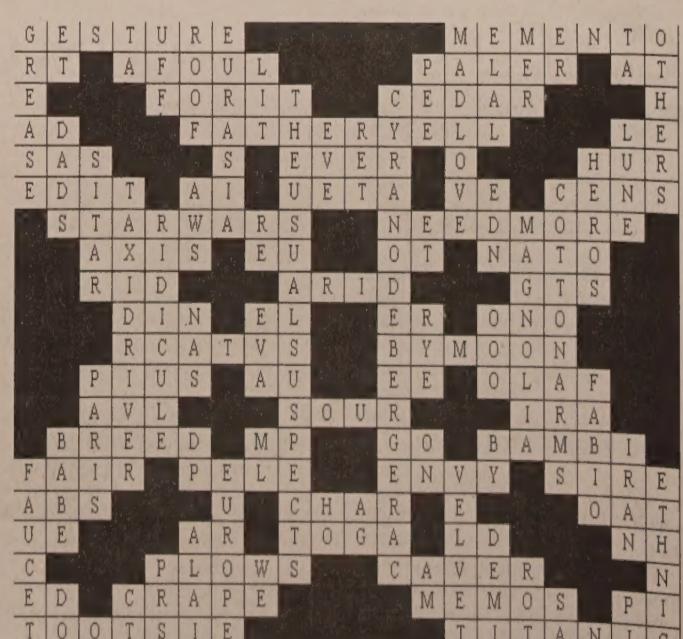
Across

- Jack-O-Lanterns are carved in this
- pizza topping (vegetable)
- I -, I saw, I conquered
- tortoise's partner
- continent with largest population
- Royal Farms (abbr)
- place on body to get a replacement
- popular sandwich type
- Doctor of Civil Law (abbr)
- name of a taking horse
- Fifth Avenue (fancy store)
- truth or -
- Elba was Napolean's - of exile
- Steven Spielberg film about a boy robot
- Austin Powers character " - me"
- for each rower (2 words)
- novelist Wisel
- opposite of a frown
- a cooking utensil that doesn't work (2 words)
- have the same opinion
- long periods of time
- high school senior exam
- Eastman Kodak (abbr)
- unhappy
- Boston Red -
- popular AIDS medication
- smack or slap
- like DNAs but only one strand
- surface of many roads
- popular student travel agency
- New Zealand (abbr)
- Mother Theresa was one
- tooth - double plural (not good English)
- wipe or touch lightly
- nursing degree (abbr)
- data (plural)
- hee -
- not young
- pre-entrée dish
- expensive Italian clothing brand
- Mr. Fleishman
- am (past tense)
- geometric shape
- wide shoe width
- 180 degrees from ESE
- - what? (2 words)
- man (plural)
- American University (abbr)
- Yasser Arafat's org.
- America's uncle
- Canadian singer Celine
- have (past tense)
- juice (French)
- a piece of land, a plot
- go bad, as in food
- abbr for metric system
- metal in the Wizard of Oz
- a lot, many
- somebody who eats
- pizza topping (type of fungus)
- a place to get food
- already saw
- check for weapons (2 words)
- mother (French)
- operating room (abbr)
- state of mind
- material to make sweaters out of

Down

- in the ocean
- fo (popular Baltimore convenience store nickname)
- short sleep
- popular sandwich spread w nuts
- type of alcohol
- thing, article or piece
- types pf soul singers
- dogs and cats can be these
- applies or pats
- pizza topping (type of meat)
- pizza topping (type of fish)
- cole - (BBQ dish)
- place where animals sleep
- teaching assistant (abbr)
- laughter syllable
- high speed internet letters —L
- 51 in old Rome
- listening organ
- plate + the letters tat
- black ball (2 words)
- woman counterpart
- horse foods
- mother or ma
- her counterpart
- 6th month of the year
- swarm everywhere
- ties the game up (slang)
- 2000 lbs
- look (Spanish)
- do another operation
- fess up (2 words)
- similar to an elk or caribou
- have a batting average of 0 (2 words)
- young woman title + key on the computer keyboard
- Charlie Brown exclamation 'O -'
- (1 word)
- rhymes with tang and gang
- attention (abbr)
- July birthstone
- vegetable that goes in a pod

SOLUTIONS TO LAST SEMESTER'S PUZZLE



CALENDAR

B-more sounds off on America

BY ANITA BHANSALI
THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-Letter

Not feeling American enough? What could possibly be more American than a night paying tribute to the great sounds of baseball? Except, of course, resurrecting George Washington and forcing him to bake an apple pie in the likeness of the American flag. But, some things are simply beyond our reach, even here at Hopkins.

Getting back to the idea of music, the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Eric Kunzel, presents *Sounds of the Stadium*, a musical tribute to our nation's great pastime. Here is the chance to experience classics like *Play Ball!* and *Casey at the Bat* as quality entertainment in their own right. To further enhance the atmosphere of beautiful afternoons spent up in the stands, cheering on your team, hot dog stands and beer vendors will be there to complete your foray into the land of the four

bases. For the final touch, there will be special guests from the Baltimore Ravens, Orioles and local newscasters doing a play-by-play commentary to Beethoven's *Fifth Symphony*.

Sounds of the Stadium will take place at Joseph Meyerhoff Symphony Hall on Thursday, Jan. 30 at 2:00 p.m., Friday, Jan. 31 at 8:00 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 1 at 8:00 p.m. and Sunday, Feb. 2 at 3:00 p.m.. For ticket prices, dates for special guests or more information, call 410-783-8000 or visit their website at <http://www.baltimoressymphony.org>.

This event is for all those people who vow to hate baseball but are caught singing *Take Me Out to the Ball Game* in the shower. It is also for those people who do not claim to hate baseball, but can be still caught singing those same songs in the shower. Just in case you don't fit into either of those aforementioned groups, rest assured that going to the symphony can be used as a sort of Americanizing potion.

Ain't Misbehavin' tribute to Waller

BY MICHELLE FIKS
THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-Letter

Ain't Misbehavin' not so bad in D.C.

So you're back at good ole' Johnny Hop and the enormity of this semester's workload has yet to sink in. Traveling to D.C. probably doesn't seem like too much of a hassle right now, which is why you should consider taking the MARC, or car, or whatever form of transportation most suits you, to see Murray Horowitz' and Richard Maltby Jr.'s play, *Ain't Misbehavin': The Fats Waller Musical Show*.

Ain't Misbehavin' serves as a tribute to Thomas "Fats" Waller, whose song of the same name is perhaps one of his most beloved and recognizable tunes. The African-American Waller was perhaps one of the most prolific and greatest jazz composers of the 20th century. *Ain't Misbehavin'* will include, "foot-stomping ragtime romps, passionate ballads and off-

the-cuff comedy," according to a press release at Arena Stage's website (<http://www.arena-stage.org>).

Some of Waller's most notable tunes, such as *Your Feet's Too Big, Mean to Me, Honeysuckle Rose* and *Ain't Misbehavin'* will also be performed, according to Arena Stage.

The play comes courtesy of Arena Stage, a Washington, D.C.-based theater. The musical score for *Ain't Misbehavin'* is courtesy of Thomas "Fats" Waller and the play itself is directed by Kenny Robertson, the genius behind *Guys and Dolls*. For more information, call 202-554-9066.

Although Waller died all too early at the age of 39 as a result of complications from pneumonia, his contributions to jazz continue to live on and to this day influence today's up-and-coming jazz artists.

There is more information available on how to purchase tickets by calling Arena Stage show, call 202-554-9066.

New Year, new play

CHINESE NEW YEAR

For the history buffs out there, the Chinese lunar calendar is the oldest record of time we know of. For those News-Letter readers who dabble in predicting the future, the Chinese calendar is based on a 12-year cycle that matches up the year a person was born in with a particular animal that is indicative of that person's behavior and characteristics. For the rest of you, you may remember the Chinese New Year as that random day in late January or early February when people would walk up to you and say "Gung Hay Fat Choi!" and possibly give you little red velvet envelopes that had coins inside. There might even have been candy involved.

Then again, you may never have experienced the Chinese Lunar New Year. If this is the case, it is easily rectified, as the Lunar New Year this year falls upon Sunday, Feb. 2. Grace and Saint Peter's Parish and the Chinese Language School present the Chinese Lunar New Year Festival,

celebrating many facets of Eastern culture. There will be karate and tai chi demonstrations, oriental music and performances with the intricately

designed and commonly known lion and dragon costumes. You've probably seen these fearsome creatures somewhere or another, but here is the chance to get as up close and personal to them as you would like. There will be a mini parade down Park Avenue, and a final performance extending Lunar New Year wishes and blessings.

Grace and Saint Peter's Parish, the site of the festival, is located at 707 Park Avenue in Baltimore. The outdoor entertainment will last from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m., and Events song will take place from 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. For information, call 410-377-8143. And let it never be said that Baltimore never provides opportunities for cultural enrichment.

—By Anita Bhansali

AUDITION FOR

MAMALEH!

Have you ever dreamed of starring on the big white way, in a legendary show like *42nd Street* or *Phantom of the Opera* or even *Cats*, perhaps? Since such accolades are reserved only for accredited actors, landing the starring role in a local Baltimore theater may just pave the way for future success.

The Audrey Herman Spotlights Theatre will be holding auditions for its play *Mamaleh!* The musical promises to be filled with "laughter and tears" as it chronicles "the mishegoss and memories of Jewish-American women as they go from the living rooms of suburban New York to the beaches of Boca Raton to the nostalgic streets of the Bronx back in the '40s in a tuneful and toe-tapping style," according to a press release from the Spotlights Theatre website (<http://www.spotlights.org>).

The casting director is looking for one woman in her early 20s, or at least a female that can pull off the required look. According to the theater's website, those who wish to audition should come with a prepared song; the audition requires reading from the actual *Mamaleh!* script, as well.

The Audrey Herman Spotlights Theatre, which bills itself as "the busiest little theatre in Baltimore," will present *Mamaleh!* to audiences from April 11 to May 17, 2003. The auditions will take place on Feb. 1 and 4 at the Spotlights Theatre, located at 817 St. Paul and Read. Saturday's audition times are from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.; Tuesday's auditions will be held from 7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. For more information, call 410-752-1225.

—By Michelle Fiks

Animal Planet auditions pets

BY MICHELLE FIKS
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

Maryland is going to be run amok by pets this week as the second annual World of Pets Expo is coming to town. From January 31 through February 2, Timonium will play host to a bevy of pets at the Maryland State Fairgrounds. Expect animals of all sorts to be in attendance, ranging from the usual cats and dogs, and even reptiles, to the bit more out there, such as ferrets.

The Expo is meant as a way to display pets and also get owners to learn more about them. There will be plenty of booths, where company representatives will provide "seminars and demonstrations," on all topics having to do with caring for your pet.

For those looking simply to enjoy the weekend, there will be enough entertainment to boot. The expo's website promises a "dog agility trial, interactive presentations, a Parade of Breeds, a petting zoo and a Just Cattin' Around Fun Show," as among the many forms of entertainment that will be present.

Owners who lovingly show off their pets tricks to everyone who comes through their front door may be interested to know that the show *Animal Planet* will also be present at

the World of Pets Expo. No, they're not going to bring their star pooches and gloat about how beautiful and well mannered they are. They just want to audition your very own pets, a la *American Idol*, according to the World of Expo website (<http://www.worldofpets.org>).

The folks over at *Animal Planet* are looking for some unusual talents that your pets may have. The more unusual the act, the better. In the past, acts such as, "motorcycle lizards, dancing dogs, bowl-

ing pigs and roller-skating birds" stole the show, according to the expo's website. With this in mind, expect the competition to get heated as pets compete for money, glory and a trip to L.A.

Admission is only \$8 for adults and there is plenty of free parking.

This may be your only opportunity to let your pet steal the show, so check out the expo. For more information, feel free to e-mail info@worldofpets.org.



COURTESY OF [HTTP://WWW.CHRISTOTEGEARY.COM](http://WWW.CHRISTOTEGEARY.COM)

Think your dog is as cute as this one? Then enter them in the World of Pets Expo.

Mickey and friends skate over to Balto

BY MICHELLE FIKS
THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-Letter

Sure, you may associate Disney with your childhood and thus deem it ineligible to serve as a source of amusement any more. But can you honestly say that you can resist Mickey Mouse's big grin? Or the one on his gal, Minnie?

Disney on Ice is skating over to the 1st Mariner Arena in Baltimore this Feb. 5 through 9. The show will serve to celebrate 100 years of the mystical brand of magic that Disney has been creating for generations of children and adults alike.

The cast of characters set to appear on the ice includes Ariel from *The Little Mermaid*, Jiminy Cricket, some of Snow White's grumpy dwarves and many (but certainly not the whole lot) of those cute and cuddly dalmatians from *101 Dalmatians*. Since Disney is nothing without its memorable songs, expect classic numbers from movies such as *Mulan*, *The Lion King* and *The Little Mermaid*.

So what can you expect to get for your buck? A bucketful of nostalgia is a definite. However, seeing Disney on Ice will also give you a chance to

revel in the sheer amazement of that pure, unadulterated amusement you used to enjoy as a child. Heck, it just might help you forget that classes just began.

Tickets will probably cost you anywhere from \$11 to \$35. For more information and showtimes, you may wish to call 410-347-2006.



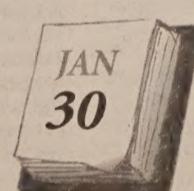
COURTESY OF [HTTP://WWW.PANTRANSIT.REPTILES.ORG](http://WWW.PANTRANSIT.REPTILES.ORG)

Minnie Mouse is heading to town.

Thursday, January 30

CALENDAR

ON CAMPUS



JAN. 30 TO FEB. 5

10:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m. **From Gulag to Glasnost:** If you want to appreciate Russian art, visit the Meyerhoff Gallery at the MICA campus to view various pieces of artwork from Leningrad artists, courtesy of the Zimmerman Art Museum. The price of admission is free, so don't miss this opportunity. For more information, call 410-225-2300.

10:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m. **Kaminer at the Pinkard Gallery:** The works of Russian sculptor Dmitry Kaminer will be on display at the Pinkard Gallery, located at 1401 Mount Royal Avenue in Baltimore. The price of admission is free. For more information, call 410-225-1122.

12:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. **Russian Accent:** Tour the Gallery International to view paintings by the Russian artist Mikhail Gubin. The Gallery is located at 523 N. Charles St. and the admission is free. For more information, call 410-230-0561.

8:00 p.m. **Stomp:** The acclaimed Broadway act makes its way to the

Lyric Opera House in Baltimore. Listen as the troupe makes music with the most unusual of objects. Tickets range from \$30.50 to \$49. For more information, call 410-481-SEAT.

8:00 p.m. **The Silent Woman:** Ben Johnson's play on the woes of marriage as told by a bachelor who marries a woman that he can't seem to handle. This play takes place in the Shakespeare Theater, located at 450 7th Street in D.C. Tickets range from \$16 to \$66. For more information, call 202-547-1122.

8:00 p.m. **'Till the Break of Dawn:** Tonight, Center Stage presents the play *'Till the Break of Dawn*, in which hip-hop youth travel to Cuba. Tickets are \$5 to \$10. For more information, call 410-332-0032.

9:00 p.m. **3rd Colony at The Vault:** Check out this Maryland hard rock band tonight at The Vault. Tickets are \$6 for those 21 and over and \$8 for those 18-20. For more information, call 410-244-6000.

ON CAMPUS

2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. **The Future of Warfare:** Stephen Biddle of the U.S. Army War College is set to deliver a speech entitled *Afghanistan and the future of warfare: Implications for army and defense policy* this afternoon in Maryland 218. This event is

sponsored by the Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory. For more information, visit <http://www.webapps.jhu.edu>.

4:30 p.m. **Honors Program in Humanistic Studies Info Session:** For all those interested in pursuing research in the field of humanistic studies, come to Gilman 111 this afternoon to see what opportunities are available. For more information, email Liang Mao at maoliang70@jhu.edu

5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. **Gospel Choir Rehearsals:** Join the Gospel Choir as they practice in the SDS in the Mattin Center room this and every Friday. For more information, email Alley Allow at alleyway100@hotmail.com.

8:00 p.m. **Buttered Niblets Show:** Come watch the Buttered Niblets put on one hell of a show tonight in the Arellano Theater. Tickets are only one dollar. For more information, visit <http://www.webapps.jhu.edu>.

8:00 p.m. & 10:30 p.m. **Jackass:** Weekend Wonderlix is sponsoring tonight's viewings of the film *Jackass*, in Shriver Auditorium. Tickets are only \$3. For more information, email Adam at bracklives@hotmail.com.

8:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. **The Blue Cranberry Hour:** Witness Theater's Intersession play, *The Blue Cranberry Hour*, is set to make its debut at Hopkins tonight, at the Swirnow Theater in the Mattin Center. Tickets are only \$3 for students and \$5 for all others. For more information, call 410-516-4695 or e-mail witnesstheater@jhu.edu.

NIGHTLIFE

CLUBS

Baja Beach Club, 55 Market Pl., 410-727-0468
Bohagers, 701 S. Eden St., 410-563-7220
Brass Monkey, 1601 Eastern Ave., 410-522-0784
Buddies Pub and Jazz Club, 313 N. Charles St., 410-332-4200
Cat's Eye Pub, 1730 Thames St., 410-276-9085
Club 723, 723 S. Broadway, 410-327-8800
Fletcher's, 701 S. Bond St., 410-558-1889
Hal Daddy's, 4119 E. Lombard St., 410-342-3239
Harry's, 1200 N. Charles Street, 410-685-2828
Horse You Came In On, 1626 Thames St., 410-327-8111
Latin Palace, 509 S. Broadway, 410-522-6700
Lava Lounge, Pier Four, 410-539-7888
Ottobrari, 203 E. Davis St., 410-752-6886
Paloma's, 15 W. Eager St., 410-783-9004
Rec Room, 512 York Rd., 410-337-7178
Redwood Trust, 200 E. Redwood St., 410-669-9500
The Spot Nite Club, 2314 Boston St., 410-276-9556
The Vault, 401 W. Baltimore St., 410-244-6000
Waterfront Hotel, 1710 Thames St., 410-327-4886
Wyatt's, 1614 Eastern Av., 410-732-8656

COMEDY

Comedy Factory, 36 Light St., 410-752-4189
Tracy's Comedy Shop, 9306 Harford Rd., 410-665-8600
Winchester's Comedy Club, 102 Water St., 410-576-8558

COFFEE

Borders Bookstore and Music, 415 York Road, 410-296-0791
Cafe Tattoo, 4825 Belair Road, 410-325-7427
Cuppa Cabana, 32nd and St. Paul Streets, 410-467-2200
Donna's, 3101 St. Paul St., 410-889-3

CALENDAR

OFF CAMPUS

10:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m. **Kaminker at the Pinkard Gallery:** The works of Russian sculptor Dmitry Kaminker will be on display at the Pinkard Gallery, located at 1401 Mount Royal Avenue in Baltimore. The price of admission is free. For more information, call 877-BAL-TIMO.

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7:00 p.m. **Advanced Sushi:** Visit A Cook's Table, located at 717 Light St. in Baltimore, to learn how to make all sorts of sushi. Tickets for the class are \$60. For more information, call 410-837-2110.

7:30 p.m. **BMA hosts Peabody.** Come out for a memorable night as the Peabody Chamber Opera performs Claudio Monteverdi's *Orfeo* (1609), an opera involving "Orpheus searching for his lost Euridice...a piece richer than anything that was to be written for the next 50 years" quotes the Peabody Institute. This special performance will be held in the Baltimore Museum of Art. For more information and to order tickets, call 410-659-8100.

8:00 p.m. **The Peabody Chamber Opera** proudly presents: "Theatre Project" directed by Roger Brunyate. The concert is located at 45 West Preston Street and is \$5 for students with valid ID. For more information, call 410-659-8100 or 800-735-2258.

8:00 p.m. **Dimly Perceived Threats to the System:** View this "dark comedy" by filmmaker Jon Klein at the Vagabond Players, located at 806 S. Broadway in Baltimore. Tickets are \$12. For more information, call 410-563-9135.

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9:00 p.m. **Stomp:** The acclaimed Broadway act makes its way to the Lyric Opera House in Baltimore. Listen as the troupe makes music with the most unusual of objects. Tickets range from \$30.50 to \$49. For more information, call 410-481-SEAT.

Theophilus North: The Washington, D.C.-based theater Arena Stage proudly presents a performance of *Theophilus North*, based on the novel by Thornton Wilder. The Arena Stage production is adapted from the Wilder book by Matthew Burnett and directed by Mark Cuddy. This play will take place in Kreeger Auditorium. For more information, call 202-554-9066.

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12:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. **Men's Fencing:** Come to wish the fencing team luck as they tackle Virginia, Drew, William & Mary and New Jersey Tech.

ON CAMPUS

7:00 p.m. **Animé Club:** The Hopkins Animé Club will be screening some of the newest animé films straight from Japan. The films will be shown in Shaffer 3. For more information, e-mail Oliver at *ollie@jhu.edu*.

8:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. **The Blue Cranberry Hour:** Witness Theater's Intersession play, *The Blue Cranberry Hour*, is set to make its debut at Hopkins tonight, at the Swirnow Theater in the Mattin Center. Tickets are only \$3 for students and \$5 for all others. For more information, call 410-516-4695 or e-mail *witnesstheater@jhu.edu*.

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7:30 p.m. **Madame Butterfly:** Puccini's classic *Madame Butterfly* is performed tonight by the London City Opera at the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis. For more information, call 410-293-8497.

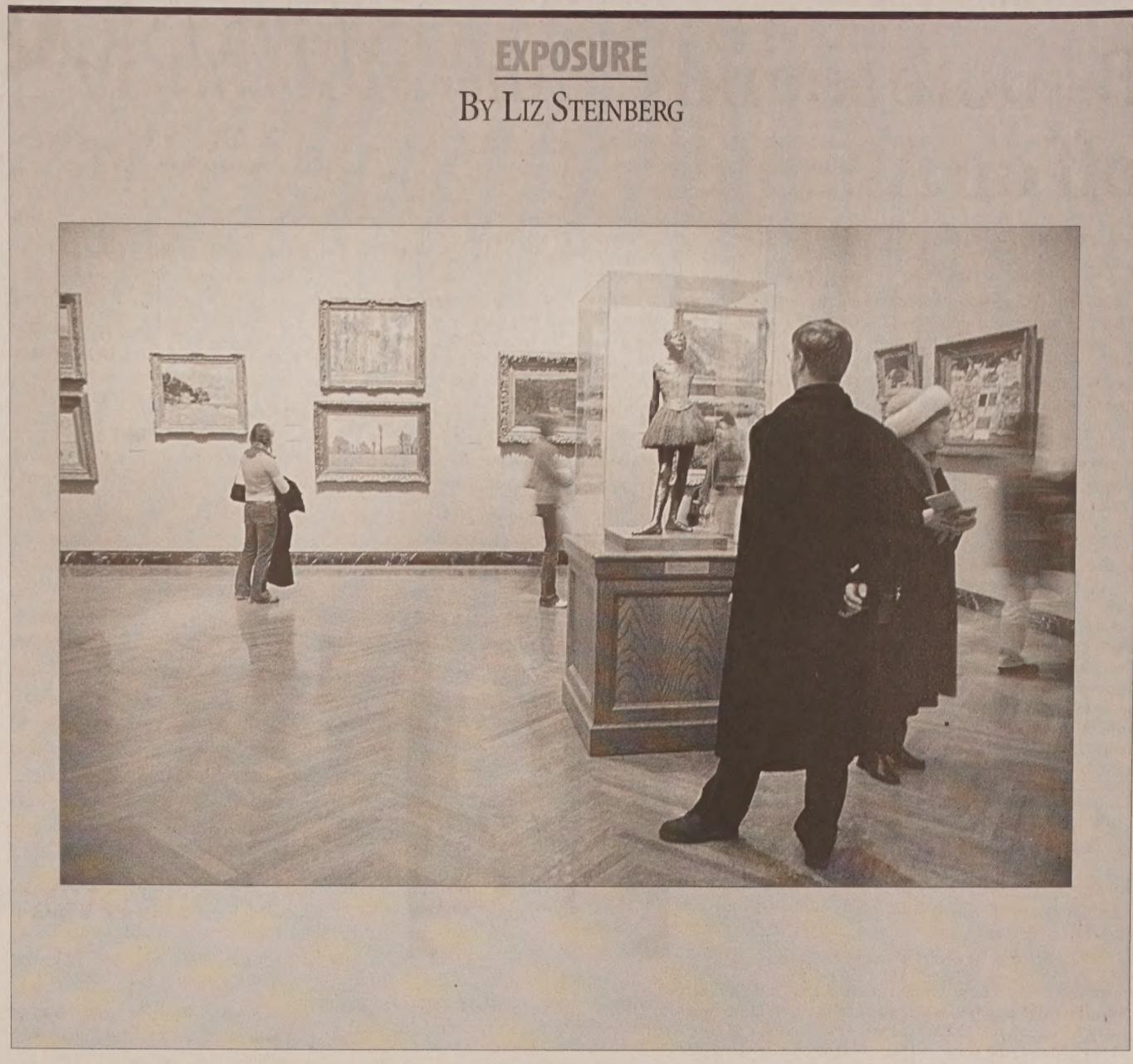
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EXPOSURE

BY LIZ STEINBERG

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9066.

Wednesday, February 5

ON CAMPUS

12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. **Doo Wop Cops:** Join the former and current police officers that brave the streets of Washington D.C. as they perform "nostalgic renditions of songs of the past as well as some current hits," according to a press release. This group is so good that they are regarded as one of the best a cappella groups in America. For more information, call 410-516-7157.

Tuesday, February 4

ON CAMPUS

12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. **The Souls of Black Folk:** Join Dr. Nahum Chandler as he moderates a discussion of DuBois' book *The Souls of Black Folk* in the Great Hall in Levering. For more information, call 410-516-6050.

Monday, February 3

ON CAMPUS

4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. **Computer Science Lecture:** Join Eitan Tadmor, from the University of Maryland at College Park today as he delivers a lecture entitled *High Resolution Methods for Time Dependent Problems with Piecewise Smooth Solutions*. The lecture will be in Maryland 110 as is sponsored by the Center for Scientific Computing. For more information, call 410-516-6451.

5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. **PreHealth Info Session:** If you're prehealth and either a sophomore or freshman, come to the class informational meeting. For room location, visit <http://www.advising.jhu.edu>.

OFF CAMPUS

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Lord of the Dance: Be whisked away to Ireland as the famous Irish dancing team taps to Celtic music. The performance will take place in the Warner Theatre, located at 13th Street, N.W. in Washington, D.C. Tickets range from \$30.50 to \$69. For more information, call 202-628-1818.

Disney on Ice: Join Mickey Mouse and his girlfriend Minnie, along with characters from Disney hits such as *The Lion King*, *A Bug's Life* and *The Little Mermaid*, as they skate on ice in the 1st Mariner Arena in Baltimore. For more information, call 410-481-SEAT.

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THE LOUSY MUSIC QUIZ

Welcome back! With any luck, this will be the first quiz you take this semester. If you've already taken a quiz this week, my most sincere apologies. If you're one of the 27 million people who watched *American Idol* last week, you no doubt enjoyed watching Simon rip on many a lousy singer. Now the QM doesn't like to partake in that show, but he does like to make fun of this week's quiz topic: lousy music. The thing I like about bad music is that it makes you appreciate stuff that's really good. Well that and there's no other media that's as ripe for parody and humor. I've always wanted to write for VH1, now let's see how well this quiz turns out. How much do you know about the worst of the worse?

Get your answers in by 5 p.m. on Tuesday. You can bring them in to the office, e-mail them to news.letter@jhu.edu or fill out the quiz online (<http://www.jhunewsletter.com>).

The winner gets \$10 worth of goodies from our sponsors, Eddie's Market and Eddie's Liquors on the 3100 block of St. Paul. So just fill out the quiz and win \$10 worth of stuff.

You could buy some new D batteries for your boom box and play Pink Floyd over and over again on the beach.

1. Watching Canadian Celine Dion's rousing rendition of "America the Beautiful" preceding the Superbowl on Sunday, I think I gained some new found respect for the world's greatest singer. But why would the world's greatest singer be opening for the Dixie Chicks? While a good question in itself, this isn't an essay contest, so here's something more direct. Celine shrewdly found a way out of paying her manager's commission by marrying him in 1988. What is the name of Celine Dion's husband, who is 26 years older than her?

2. The Strokes, the Vines, the Hives and the White Stripes all sound like the names of diseases I'd rather not have. It seems like this garage band fad has already been milked for more than it was worth, and the used CD bins of America are waiting anxiously. Although formed in New York City, The Strokes found mass appeal in the UK. Not many bands enjoy the same overnight success as The Strokes. The young band formed in 1999 and played their first show that year as well. What was the name of the first Strokes CD released in the UK and later in the United States?

3. Returning to Canada as the source for more lousy music, our next offender is the teen (I'm too cool for pop) popstress Avril Lavigne. The 17-year-old singer exploded onto the scene in summer 2002 with "Complicated" and followed it up with "Sk8er Boi."

Although the complicated spelling of skater boy may be chalked up to some sort of coolness factor that we can't understand, apparently Avril can't pronounce words correctly either. While announcing the Grammy nominees for best male rock vocal performance, what legendary singer's name did she butcher?

4. MC Hammer, also known as Hammer, dominated radio and MTV with "U Can't Touch This" in 1990 and had album sales grossing over 10 million copies. During those days, he appeared unstoppable, despite his ridiculous pants and clothing. Hammer came from humble beginnings and a very religious family, and worked as a batboy for the Oakland A's. Unfortunately, he began to lose touch with the fans that powered his rise to stardom due to his increasing commercialism. The shining example of this: a Saturday morning cartoon. In the Hammertime cartoon, what magical accessories talked to Hammer?

5. In *The Simpsons*, in episode 9F21, Homer forms a Barber Shop Quartet named the Be Sharps and eventually goes on to win a Grammy for Outstanding Soul, Spoken Word, or Barbershop Album of the Year beating out Dexy's Midnight Runners. Unfortunately,

the group ran wild with their fame and declared that they were bigger than Jesus (that was the title of their second album). What original member of the Be Sharps was replaced by Barney Gumble?

6. Many a die hard Beatles fan still holds bitter resentment towards Yoko Ono. While there were no doubt many reasons behind the breakup of the Beatles, Yoko seemed to be an easy target for the public. John Lennon and Ono released several highly experimental and confusing albums together. Their first album was released in 1968, before their marriage in March 1969, and featured strange sound clips and black and white nude photography on the jacket. What was the name

of the record?

7. Enya was born Eithne Ní Bhraonáin in 1961 in Gweedore, County Donegal, Ireland. Unlike her rock counterparts, the Cranberries, she chooses to focus on blending new age and folk music instead of crafting meandering rock anthems about the terrorism in Northern Ireland. If I was stuck in an elevator, her music might even soothe my frustration, but in most situations, that's not the case. Enya struck it big in 1988 when her album *Watermark* was released and went on to sell over 8 million copies worldwide. Now I somehow equate listening to Enya to sitting in a dentist's office,

but I'm sure many fans would disagree. What I want to know is: what is the real title of that *Sail Away* song?

8. What a world we live in where visionary artistic talents like NSYNC and the Backstreet Boys can be dismissed as teen pop, doomed to fade away as yet another trend. Ooh, I wish you could hear the sarcasm in my voice on that one. I still feel like New Kids on the Block could do some serious damage to both of these bands. Although it seems like the teen pop of the late '80s and late '90s were two worlds apart, the New Kids' last official CD was released in 1994 and the Backstreet Boys' first CD was released in 1996. What big name record producer helped the Backstreet Boys get their start and is also responsible for many other teen pop earaches?

9. True or False: Kenny G is Warren G's brother.

10. With all this talk about bad musicians, I'm going to take this last question to pay tribute to the (self-proclaimed) greatest band on earth: Tenacious D. Started as HBO comedy skits, this acoustic rock duo somehow rocks harder than bands with twice as many members and electricity. Their original title for their debut album was *It's Grammy Time* however they changed it to being self-titled. Name one of the two members of Tenacious D.

Last Month's quiz winner was Lolita Nidadavolu. Please come to the Gatehouse on a Tuesday or Wednesday night to claim your prize.

Last Month's Answers:

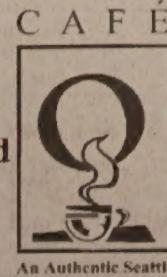
1. TaNaKh
2. The Analects; Lun Yu
3. Thomas Jefferson
4. Kesh (uncut hair — worn in a turban)
Kanga (a comb in the hair — symbolizing cleanliness)
Kara (a steel bracelet)
Kachha (underwear)
Kirpan (ceremonial sword)
5. Fasting during Ramadan,
Pilgrimage to Mecca,
Giving Charity,
the Shahada (belief in one God and that Mohammad is his prophet);
Prayers five times daily
6. Jesus, Allah, Buddha
7. Yom Kippur, Rosh HaShanah, Elul
8. the Four Noble Truths, the Eightfold Path
9. Krishna



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